A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 3 November, 1933

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"AMONG OURSELVES" is with us again.

Whether the staff news-sheet, "Among Ourselves," first (and last) issued in 1917 was resuscitated in the "Ghost Chamber" on the evening of October 27th, in the basement of South Branch, is a moot question. Perhaps it is inevitable that any organ, once published, has, like the fabled cat, at least nine lives. Anyway, here it is again, before your very eyes!

This Lilliputian publication can only survive with the co-operation of every member of the staff. Of course, such announcements as new appointments, resignations, promotions, and transfers are readily available at Administration Headquarters, and will be included from time to time. But such items as special exhibits, club activities, lectures, readings, programs, and the like, are earnestly solicited from the Branches. These together with items of personal news, will be welcomed by the Publicity Committee---Ruth Eastwood, Chairman (F), Ada J. Cobb (M), Louis N. Feipel (Ad), and Adelaide A. Kennedy (PS 89).

Above all, suggestions for improvement and expansion, and constructive criticism of each issue, will be essential for such a staff organ as this to become successfully established.

Louis M. Nourse

President, B.P.L. Staff Association

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

Dear Editors:

I am pleased to be permitted to say a word or two for this first number of our house organ. It is peculiarly fitting for librarians to use the written word - that is their stock in trade. And scattered as we are it is almost impossible for us to keep that personal contact which means friendly and efficient functioning of our organization. Resort to some form of print is therefore our next and most natural step. Through a monthly letter all of us will get the news of the staff which might otherwise, through accident, not come to our ears for an indefinite period. If we are to be happy in our work we must be informed not only about the outside matters concerning the world at large but also about the events and incidents of our own group. "Among Ourselves" will therefore serve an excellent purpose; and I can see it becoming as indispensable to a member of the staff of the Brooklyn

Public Library as the "Atlantic Monthly" is supposed to be to a New England professor.

From time to time I hope you may allow me the privilege of a line or two, so that I may let you know our plans, may give you some notes by which we may steer our course. This is the season of goodwill, and I could easily let my pen run in that direction. However, among us all seasons are thus characterized. And so all I desire to say now is to express satisfaction in the move you are making, and confidence in its complete success.

Sincerely yours,

Milton J. Ferguson

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ECHOES FROM THE A.L.A. CONFERENCE

It is difficult to enumerate briefly the high lights of the A.L.A. Conference, as they were numerous and bright. The registration of over 3,000 was surely remarkable in this time of stress and economy. An imposing array of foreign librarians, administrators of famous storehouses of knowledge, added to the importance of the occasion; and there was substance and wit in many of the addresses. Listening to Dean Judd, Howard Mumford Jones, Mary Ellen Chase (to name but three), one could forget even the unyielding rigidity of the ballroom chairs! There was an inspiring note in the frequency with which quality was stressed. And, of course, there was always the Fair, just across the way, waiting for the unfilled hours.

Bertha G. Crozier (South)

Numbering three thousand, as we did, we had a good time, with no one missing the others very much. We went to meetings, listened awhile, and when no chairs were forthcoming, we went out. We investigated Chicago's libraries, sauntered through the Art Institute, tramped through the "Fair", shopped at Marshall-Field's, "did" the Field Museum, and listened to the wonders told about the heavens at the Adler Planetarium. We ate in all the dining-rooms of the Stevens Hotel and slept wearily each night in one of its finest beds. We met many nice people, and made many friends; but we think our nicest one is J. Christian Bay, of the John Crerar Library, who told us many things, and then presented us with an old Biblical manuscript on vellum, to be for ever afterward associated with the A.L.A.'s 55th Annual Conference, and my first meeting.

Ethel A. Bailey (Flatbush)

It was indeed a pleasure to be one of such a large gathering, and to have the opportunity to see and speak with individuals from far and near, many standing at the very peak of their profession. Though one might feel oneself to be but the tiniest "cog in the wheel," it was a great satisfaction to realize that, in this scientific age, the "wheel" was daily becoming a more perfect

and smooth-running piece of machinery, and was constantly moving forward!

Julia Holzapfel (Bj)

According to May Lamberton Becker, "the American Library Association meeting was so lively, I came within three hours of being the only American to visit Chicago this year and not see the Fair."

LIBRARY CREDIT UNION

It seems appropriate that the first issue of the revived staff-paper should contain a reminder of the work of the Library Credit Union and the excellent possibilities for service that it offers to its members.

The Credit Union is organized under the banking laws of New York State. Last year, the first of its existence, it was able to pay a six-percent dividend to its members. As an investment, either of large sums or small monthly instalments, it will probably continue to pay the investor more than a savings bank; so that staff members who are saving toward a vacation or service leave might do well to investigate the possibilities of using the Credit Union.

The Credit Union will also finance small loans for its members. Sums up to $50 may be had by any shareholder, without endorsement; beyond that amount (up to $200), one or two co-makers are required. These loans are made for ten months, at the rate of one percent a month on unpaid balances. For example, on a $50 loan the borrower pays back $5.50 the first month, $5.45 the second month, $5.40 the third, and so on, until at the end of ten months the loan is liquidated, with interest. Many members of the Queens and New York library-systems have taken such loans as an easy way of financing tuition fees, vacation expenses, and emergency demands of various kinds; but the Brooklyn staff-members have appeared to be reluctant to avail themselves of these advantages. At the present time there are about forty B.P.L. members in the Union, with one Branch having a nearly one-hundred-percent enrolment. Let us come in strong, both as depositors and as borrowers!

Membership in the Library Credit Union is limited to the employees of the public libraries of Greater New York, and may be had at $5 a share, which amount may be paid in one or more instalments.

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RECENT STAFF CHANGES

Adah M. Colby, Branch Librarian at Montague, resigned on July 6, 1933. Miss Colby was originally appointed on the staff of the B.P.L. on April 15, 1902

Jesse E. Cross was appointed Reference Librarian, at Montague, July 1, 1933.

and smooth-running piece of machinery, and was constantly moving forward!

Julia Holzapfel (3)

According to May Lamberton Becker, "the American Library Association meeting was so lively, I came within three hours of being the only American to visit Chicago this year and not see the Fair."

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The Credit Union will also finance small loans for its members. Sums up to $200 may be lent by any shareholder, without endorsement, beyond that amount (up to $500), one or two co-makers are required. These loans are made for 18 months, at the rate of one percent a month on unpaid balances. For example, on a $100 loan the borrower pays back $6.00 the first month, $5.94 the second month, $5.88 the third, and so on, until at the end of 18 months the loan is liquidated, with interest. Many members of the Queens and New York Library-systems have taken small loans as an easy way of financing tuition fees, vacation expenses, unemployed dependents of various kinds; but the Brooklyn staff-members have supported to be relatively to avail themselves of these advantages. At the present time there are about forty P.L. members in the Union, with one branch having a nearly one-hundred-per-cent enrollment. Let us come in strong, both as depositors and as borrowers!

Membership in the Library Credit Union is limited to the employees of the public libraries of Greater New York, and may be had at $5 a share, which amount may be paid in one or more installments.

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HOLMES STAFF ORDERS

Adah M. Colby, branch librarian at Montague, resigned on July 1, 1935. Miss Colby was originally appointed on the staff of the P.L. on April 15, 1908.

James T. Brown was appointed Reference Librarian, at headquarters, July 1, 1935.

Mrs. Eugenia Arnold Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Work with Children, resigned on August 31, 1933. Mrs. Smith is now in Europe.

Mrs. Marguerite N. Spaans, Assistant Children's Librarian, Grade 2, at Saratoga, resigned on October 7, 1933.

Clara Greenberg was appointed as Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Montague, October 16, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Phyllis K. Carroll.

Ruth Lamson was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Sheepshead, October 17, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Iva W. Foster, who leaves to attend the Columbia School of Library Service.

Olive O. Munson was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Kensington, October 16, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Etta G. Wagner.

Ruth E. Everett was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 1, at De Kalb, October 16, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Naomi E. Fleagle.

Mrs. Gladys S. Williams, Library Assistant, Grade 1, at Williamsburgh, resigned on October 31, 1933.

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Good News from Miss Hunt

We are happy to say that Miss Hunt is well on the road to recovery. Postmaster-General Farley must have noticed the increase in revenue derived from the heavy mail received by Miss Hunt. Friends visiting her found her cheerful and optimistic, and ready to join the ranks again in a few weeks.

Other Personals

Mr. Sullivan, Secretary of the Board, and Chief Librarian Ferguson attended the funeral of the late Richard R. Bowker, at Stockbridge, Mass., on November 14, 1933.

Florence O'Gara, of Williamsburgh, won a copy of "Authors To-day and Yesterday" in the H. W. Wilson Company's recent photograph-identification contest.

Anna Durward, of Brownsville, is a member of this year's class at the Pratt Institute Library School.

Viola Chittenden White, formerly of Brownsville, has been appointed curator of the Abernethy Collection of American Literature at Middlebury College, Vermont. For the past two years Miss White has been studying for her doctorate at the University of North Carolina. The subject of her dissertation was Herman Melville. Miss White has published several volumes of poems, the most recent of which is "Blue Forest."

Mrs. Eugenia Arnold Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Work with Children, resigned on August 31, 1933. Mrs. Smith is now in Europe.

Mrs. Marguerite K. Spence, Assistant Children's Librarian, Grade 2, at Saratoga, resigned on October 7, 1933.

Clara Greenhover was appointed as Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Montague, October 16, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Phyllis K. Garrett.

Ruth Lawson was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Shrewsbury, October 17, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ivan S. Foster, who leaves to attend the Columbia School of Library Service.

Olive D. Nugent was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 2, at Washington, October 18, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Edna G. Warner.

Ruth R. Everett was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 1, at Mark, October 19, 1933, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Naomi F. Kingsley.

Mrs. Gladys S. Williams, Library Assistant, Grade 1, at Williamsburg, resigned on October 21, 1933.

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Good News From Miss Hunt

We are happy to say that Miss Hunt is well on the road to recovery. Professional-minded Worcester people have noticed the increase in revenue derived from the nickels and dimes received by Miss Hunt. Friends visiting her found her cheerful and optimistic, and ready to join the ranks again in a few weeks.

Other Personals

Mr. Sullivan, secretary of the Board, and Chief Librarian Ferguson attended the funeral of the late Stephen H. Gowler, at Stockbridge, Mass., on November 14, 1933.

Florence Olsen, of Williamsburg, won a copy of "Authors To-day and Yesterday" in Mr. R. W. Wilson Company's recent photograph-identification contest.

Anna Dunwood, of Brownsville, is a member of this year's class at the Pratt Institute Library School.

Viola Gritten White, formerly of Brownsville, has been appointed curator of the Alpern Collection of American Literature at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. For the past two years Mrs. White has been auditing for her doctorate at the University of North Carolina. The subject of her dissertation was Thomas M. Ivelis, Mass. Author, published several volumes of poems, the most recent of which is "Ruby Forest".

Many of our children's librarians were the guests of the Viking Press on Wednesday afternoon, October 11th. They were invited to meet the authors and illustrators of Viking's 1933 junior books.

"The Conquest of the Atlantic," written and illustrated by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire, is of special interest to the B.P.L. staff; for Mrs. Parin d'Aulaire is a sister of Mrs. Dagny Rennie, formerly of Eastern Parkway.

Word has been received of the birth of a daughter, Jane Campbell Moore, to Lieutenant and Mrs. Granville Alexander Moore, U.S.Navy, on August 19, 1933, at Coronado, California. Mrs. Moore was formerly Emily Woodward, first assistant at Greenpoint.

Anna P. Shumway, of Midwood, won the distinction of having a short story - "Ike and us Moons," included in O'Brien's "Best Short Stories of 1933."

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THE STAFF ASSOCIATION HALLOWE'EN PARTY

On October 27th, the Staff Association held a most interesting Hallowe'en party, at the South Branch.

Everybody who attended had an unusually good time. Our thanks are extended to the members of the Social Committee and the South staff for their untiring efforts in making this such an enjoyable evening.

The room was decorated in Hallowe'en colors so artistically arranged that you completely forgot you were in a library auditorium. The costumes were pretty, interesting, and clever. It was difficult to distinguish people, as it was a mask-party and staff-members stepped out of their characters for the evening, to fit their masquerade costumes.

Miss Winifred Jackson, of South, told a very gruesome ghost-story. Until that evening, nobody realized that we had a trained ballet at Macon; but that Staff surprised us with a clever sailor-dance. The girls wore sailor costumes, and Miss Burdett was captain of the good ship "Macon." This was not only an interesting group in itself, but also very appropriate to the celebration of Navy Day, which fell on that date.

One of the most delightful features of the evening's entertainment was a shadow-play, called "A Librarian's Nightmare," written by Miss Dorothy Bloch, and presented by Miss Dorothy Voorhees and the Committee. It was very cleverly and humorously done.

There was a grand march preceding the awarding of prizes. Cecile J. Lynch was awarded a prize for the most beautiful costume, while another prize went to Miss Voorhees for the most original one.

Many of our multi-media librarians were the guests of the Viking Press on Wednesday afternoon, October 11th. They were invited to meet the authors and illustrators of Viking's 1953 junior books.

"The Company of the Atlantic," written and illustrated by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire, is of special interest to the S.F.L. staff; for Mrs. Marie d'Aulaire is a sister of Mrs. Henry Brandt, formerly of Masters Conference.

Word has been received of the birth of a daughter, Anne Campbell Moore, to Lieutenant and Mrs. Dwinville Hampton Moore, U.S.N.R., on August 19, 1953, at Coronado, California. Mrs. Moore was formerly Polly Woodward, first assistant at Greenpoint.

Anna K. Shuman, of Midwood, won the distinction of having a short story - "Like and Un Coons" - included in O'Brien's "Best Short Stories of 1953."

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THE STORY ABOUT THE BOWERY PARTY

On October 27th, the Staff Association held a most interesting Halloween party, at the Seventh Avenue.

Everybody who attended had an unusually good time. Our thanks are extended to the members of the Social Committee and the South staff for their untiring efforts in making this such an enjoyable evening.

The room was decorated in Halloween colors so artistically arranged that you completely forgot you were in a library cafeteria. The costumes were pretty, interesting, and clever. It was difficult to distinguish people, as it was a mask-party and attendees dressed out of their regular for the evening, to fit their masquerade costumes.

Miss Virginia Jackson, of South, told a very tuneful ghost story. Until that evening, nobody realized that we had a trained ballet at Madison but that talent surprised us with a clever ballet dance. The girls wore ballet costumes, and this number was capital of the good ship "Moon." This was not only an interesting dance in itself, but also very appropriate at the celebration of Navy Day, which fell on that date.

One of the most delightful features of the evening's entertainment was a shadow-play, called "Lubrinda's Lightbulb," written by Miss Dorothy Moon, and presented by Miss Dorothy Voorhees and the Committee. It was very clever and humorously done.

There was a grand march preceding the awarding of prizes. Cecile J. Lynch was awarded a prize for the most beautiful costume, while another prize went to Miss Voorhees for the most original one.

The grand finale was the serving of refreshments, consisting of doughnuts and coffee, served for the first time on our new, attractive Staff Association china that was bought from the proceeds of the last Staff Association bridge-party.

A good time was had by all. And let it be resolved that we have more parties where we meet our Library friends in such an enjoyable atmosphere.

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NEW DUPLICATE-PAY BRANCHES

Williamsburgh and Crown Heights are about to be added to the list of Branches having a Duplicate Pay-Collection. The other Duplicate-Pay Branches are: Bay Ridge, Bedford, Brownsville, Carroll Park, East, Eastern Parkway, Flatbush, Fort Hamilton, Kings Highway, Macon, Midwood, Montague, Pacific, Prospect, Saratoga, and Sheepshead Bay.

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B.P.L. Anniversaries

On September 1st the City Park Carnegie building completed its twenty-fifth year of existence.

Two days later (September 3d), the Saratoga Carnegie building marked a similar event.

In December, three branch Carnegie buildings will celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversaries: Leonard, on December 1st; Bushwick, on December 16th; and Brownsville, on December 19th.

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THE LIBRARY OF THE
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AMONG OURSELVES

DECEMBER
1933

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 4 December, 1933

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AROUND TO THE BRANCHES DURING BOOK WEEK

By Irene Smith

Special occasions in the Branches have a potential festivity for all of us that has never been freely enjoyed. If there were some unimaginable supply of extra help to be had, then more might go a-visiting to see the library sights in a distant part of the borough. Ideally, one would be hostess without harassment---and guest without remorse for the suffering companions left at work. Under these circumstances, the ingenious, artistic, and interesting exhibits offered during Book Week could have special, delighted appreciation from those on the inside.

The children's librarian is usually the chief designer; and she makes her preparations as far ahead as the summer vacation. At many Branches, everyone from the janitor up helps the children's librarian with her exhibit. To catalogue the subjects displayed this year in no way represents their total effect; but the bare facts shall be purveyed for want of a more intimate exchange.

South had a Russian exhibit throughout the Branch, with interesting native arts and crafts, and colorful posters. Its timeliness and artistic appeal were much-praised. The scene was as modern as to-day at Carroll Park, where Transportation was the theme, and at City Park, where models of the Century of Progress buildings reproduced Chicago's fair. Flatbush and Irving portrayed literary subjects, with displays that worked in some of the good older books; while Bedford, Brownsville Children's, and East exhibited the season's new books in interesting group arrangements. At Kings Highway the subject was Travel; at Prospect, American Indian Life. Pacific had Pioneer Days, and Williamsburgh had People the World Over, with delightful black-and-yellow silhouette posters.

Eastern Parkway was fortunate in obtaining beautiful small models of houses that demonstrated, very attractively, various types of American houses. Bushwick went into the home-life of many peoples, showing on several tables an Eskimo village, Chinese and Japanese houses, a Swiss chalet, a castle, log-cabin, and wigwam - all parts of the general subject, "From Caves to Skyscrapers It is unnecessary to explain that each children's librarian arranged appropriate groups of books around these varied museum objects, carrying the ideas as far as possible.

Stories were brought to life at Coney Island by means of small toy animals and figurines that illustrated well-known books. Both Saratoga and Macon went nautical. Macon had port and starboard lights among other features. (Their Hallowe'en Party performance made them sea-minded.) The manual-training classes in the schools

near Red Hook lent an exhibit of handicraft and carpentry.

Many fascinating objects were to be seen at De Kalb, as part of a panorama entitled, "Progress Through the Century." Some of its phases were: progress of light (the candle to the electric bulb); Transportation, from stagecoach to aeroplane; time-telling, from hour-glass to clock; and broadcasting the news, from town-crier to the radio.

Leonard's many visitors received a thrilling trip through the Latin classics. Large portraits done in brown crayons showed the austere heads of Caesar, Cleopatra, Antony, Brutus, Hannibal, Virgil and Cicero; while the great Augustus and his Livia adorned with noble countenance the center panels of the reading-room. In the children's room were such objects as a Roman house, ancient Roman coins, and a model of Caesar's bridge across the Rhine. Everyone was much impressed, and high-school students were seen scurrying around with note-books in hand, copying the neat little inscriptions that lighted a path through the by-ways of the Empire, and the mother-tongue.

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The following letter from Judge Garvin explains itself:

November 25, 1933

Mr. Louis M. Nourse, President,
Brooklyn Public Library Staff Association.

Dear Mr. Nourse:

I was very much pleased to learn that your Association has decided to bring to life again this publication. Happily, you are doing this shortly before the season of good cheer, Christmas time.

The members of the Association are a fine and loyal group of men and women. It has been a privilege to be associated with them in the valuable work which they are doing day by day---modestly, cheerfully, and unselfishly.

And so, at this Christmastide, I cannot refrain from sending you all an affectionate message. May your Christmas be merry and your New Year happy.

Yours faithfully and sincerely,

(Signed) EDWIN L. GARVIN

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Important losses to the Library by death occurred in the passing-away of Trustee Frank L. Babbott, on December 7th, following very closely upon that of R. R. Bowker on November 12th, and that of William H. Good, on October 13th. These were followed, on December 13th, by the death of Trustee James A. Cameron, the well-known manufacturer and clubman.

Other recent changes in the constitution of the Board of Trustees include the appointment, on December 7th, of Mrs. Sabyna Capper Schmitz to fill the unexpired term of the late William H. Good, and of William H. Eaton to fill the unexpired term of Ernest P. Goodrich, who resigned recently to become head of the engineering staff of the city's Sanitation Department.

Mrs. Schmitz, who resides at 74 Wellington Court, taught history and community civics at Manual Training High School prior to her marriage. Mr. Eaton, residing at 455 Van Buren Street, is connected with the New York Telephone Company.

On July 7th, his Honor the Mayor appointed David J. McLean, president and publisher of the "Brooklyn Citizen," Trustee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Walter H. Crittenden. Mr. McLean resides at 388 Clinton Avenue.

On May 18th, the Mayor appointed Adrian Van Sinderen, a leading citizen and philanthropist, as Trustee to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Clinton D. Burdick. Mr. Van Sinderen is president of the Brooklyn Hospital, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is also chairman of the Brooklyn Opera Committee, which is the agency through which the Metropolitan Opera Company is enabled to come to this borough every year. He is active in many other organizations.

Mr. Van Sinderen himself is an artist and musician of ability, and has taken an active part in furthering the study and practice of the arts here. On January 27th last, he was awarded the Downtown Brooklyn Association's gold medal, "to the citizen who has accomplished the most good for Brooklyn" in the opinion of the Committee on Selection.

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Under the last will and testament of the late R. R. Bowker, the Brooklyn Public Library will come into a bequest amounting to one-fourth of the residue of his estate, at the death of his widow, Alice Mitchell Bowker.

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Dr. Ferguson has bought a summer-home in Old Field South, near Stony Brook, L. I.

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P.S. 89 Branch will cease to exist on January 1, 1934. Miss Schneidewind is being assigned to Kings Highway Branch.

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OTHER PERSONALS

Olive Sprague, of Saratoga, is conducting a reading-club for girls of high-school age. The members of the club are working on a one-act comedy, to be given in the study-room this month. Miss Sprague is especially interested in work with adolescents.

Miss Boies, Branch Librarian at Saratoga, gave the following readings this month: on Tuesday evening, December 5, Selma Lagerlöf's "The Legend of the Christmas Rose," at the Christmas meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club of the Bedford Presbyterian Church; on Tuesday evening, December 12, Selma Lagerlöf's "A Christmas Guest," at the Christmas meeting of the Business and Professional Women's group of the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Marguerite M. Williamson, of Flatbush, is enjoying a course in Advanced Gardening at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Marguerite E. Lennon (F) is taking the Reference Course in the School of Library Service at Columbia, and Thelma E. Smith (F) the Contemporary Novel course at New York University.

Congratulations, Miss Bessie Gregg (Cp) and Miss Kirkland (M)! We put into print our pride in possessing the only two librarians in Greater New York who passed the recent "Reference" examination.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Healy, of New Rochelle, have recently adopted an infant son, Mark David. Mrs. Healy was formerly Louise E. Smibert, Assistant Branch Librarian at Montague.

"Ann's Surprising Summer," by Marjorie Hill Allee, one of this season's juveniles, is illustrated by Maitland de Gogorza, the son of Mrs. De Gogorza, of Brownsville Children's.

"Amarantha Gay, M.D.," by Emma Gelders Sterne, another of this season's juveniles, contains decorations by Edwin C. Caswell, a brother of Miss Caroline Caswell, of Eastern Parkway. Mr. Caswell has illustrated quite a number of books.

Mr. Connor's son, Dr. Charles A. R. Connor 2, who at one time worked at Montague, has been appointed as an Assistant Alienist in Bellevue Hospital.

Miss Donaghy, who left Adelphi Hospital on December 16th, is convalescing at Bayville, L. I., in care of Mrs. Jacob Underhill.

Miss Sarah A. Beard (Bj) read a paper at the A.L.A. Young People's Reading Round Table last October, in which she dealt with the problems (and their solution) which arise in her daily work with boys and girls of this formative age.

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WON'T YOU TELL ALL THE REST OF US WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR BRANCH OR DEPARTMENT?

Send material for "Among Ourselves" to any member of the Publicity Committee during the first week of every month.

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AFTER WALTER WINCHELL

Editor's Note: We should never have presumed to include Winchell's works in the sacrosanct collection of a public library until we learned that Mr. Winchell is an author about whom all good librarians should know. The recent promotional examinations included the question, Who is Walter Winchell? Even Mr. Winchell might have been startled by the answers.

Dan Cupid seems to be on the hunt for librarians. His little barbs have taken root in the quivering hearts of no less than nineteen fair members of the Staff during the past twelve months. So a comparison of the recently issued 1933 Staff Roster with the one of a year ago reveals. Seventeen book-shufflers have ankle-stepped it down the middle aisle to the tune of Mendelssohn's Fox-Trot in the past year. Even since the new Roster's appearance, Else Munthe (Williamsburgh) has put on the ball-and-chain, and henceforth is to be known as Mrs. Tondevold; and we learn today that Mollie Siegfried (Coney Island) was welded on December fourth, and from now on will answer present to the name of Mrs. Greenberg. A bunch of holly and a sprig of mistletoe to you, my dears!

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Last month the East High School, of Rochester, N. Y., purchased 130 copies of "Books for Youth." On December 2nd, the Central Junior High School, Ogden,Utah, ordered 28 copies, duplicating a similar order placed in October. The record is still held by the Pennsylvania Library Association, which purchased 150 copies in March, 1932. To date, upwards of 4,100 copies of "Books for Youth" have been sold.

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Ninety new members were elected by the New York Library Club at its first meeting of the season, held at the American Museum of Natural History, on December 6th. The great majority of these were from the New York Public Library. The Brooklyn Public Library staff will have to look to its laurels, and join up in increasing numbers. We should lead the other libraries of the metropolitan area in percentage of membership.

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A.L.A. RETIREMENT PLAN

Recent action by the Board of Trustees has made it possible for those members of the Staff who have completed three years or more of library service in the Brooklyn Public Library, to join the American Library Association Retirement Plan and to secure such annuities as are obtainable through contributions to it. The Library will not be able to make a financial contribution to the plan, but it has authorized the Bursar, Mr. Connor, to receive and transmit to the A.L.A. Retirement Plan Headquarters funds paid in on this account. Those staff-members interested in joining the plan should send their names to Mr. Nourse.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

To My Friends--The Staff:

We may become critical and skeptical over Christmas when we note that certain selfish souls in this world will bend any fine sentiment to serve commercial ends; but after all there is a deep human need for this season of good will toward men. The spirit of the time gets beneath our outward crust, whether we be a non-typical Scrooge or a very modern rider in subway trains, elbowed by the indifferent and trod upon by the big-footed. Forgiveness floods our being, and washes away a dross, a poison, injurious not so much to the other fellow as to ourselves. Thus, I believe, we are periodically made saner men and more beautiful women--I leave to you the true meaning of the adjective I have applied to the majority in our professional circle--and in that renewing of our graces we become better able to do our work, and worthier of the friendship our fellows accord us. And for these virtues I give deep thanks.

However, let me not strike too solemn a note, rather let us all rejoice for the beauty which glorified our lives last year, and look forward with childlike faith to the happiness of tomorrow. Perhaps I ought to emphasize the importance of this day and this hour; for the years speed by, and we live in and by the present moment. It is so necessary, therefore, for us, in our daily work and in our social contacts, to let the light within shine forth now and here, to laugh not at weaknesses, but happily, contagiously.

There have been handicaps in our work during the past year, there may be more to come; but I am not going to face the future in fearful mood. I know we have been drawn closer together by the effort we have made. I am sure we will enjoy living, and that we will live, to the full. With spirit strong and daring, no battle need daunt us.

So, right heartily, I wish you all a merry Merry Christmas--you who are well and free of pain, and especially you who during weeks and months have suffered physical ills. May the strong ones continue in their strength; and may those weak of body soon be restored to our ranks. And so for the New Year, it is a new year, you know: let us get out of it the full measure of its joy in work and in play and in friendship. Shall we listen to the glad bells together!

Merry Christmas to you all,

MILTON J. FERGUSON

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OUR COVERS

Mr. Slawson (AD) and Miss B. Winifred Jackson (S) are to be congratulated on their success in making the first issue of "Among Ourselves" so attractive. Many people have commented on the striking get-up. Miss Jackson has contributed the cover for this issue, which we think is even more stunning than the one she made for the November issue. Miss Jackson's decided artistic gifts find a happy outlet in making her children's room always one of the most attractive in the system. Her whimisical and delightful frieze of black cats for the Hallowe'en Party will not soon be forgotten.

-o-O-o-

A librarian in London, Ontario, vouches for the following: A lady came into the library seeking one or another of Arthur Stringer's popular Westerns---"The Prairie Wife," "The Prairie Child," or "The Prairie Mother." She was truly but not altogether satisfyingly informed by the young librarian-in-charge, that "the wife's out, the child's lost, and the mother worn-out."

-o-O-o-

SOUTH'S REPORT ON RUSSIAN EXHIBIT

Russia is a large and varied country (see map of Europe and Asia) as South's staff discovered when it put on the fifth of its series of exhibits, showing the arts and crafts of different countries. The research involved in the collection and arrangement of the pictures and other material used, has been of educational value to the staff. We hope that the introduction of Russian handicrafts proved as informative to the public.

The articles on display were lent by the South staff and their friends. Some objects of especial interest were: Russian currency and stamps, "old and new", examples of peasant embroidery, as shown in towels and costumes; a lovely carved mother-of-pearl icon; and articles of daily use in Russia, such as brass candlesticks, tea-caddy, and mortar and pestle. The children pressed inquisitive noses against the glass case to gaze on the toys and brightly colored painted wooden bowls which caught and held the eye. An object of historical interest was a 200-year-old Easter egg of porcelain, presented to the Czar by a group of peasants.

The Branch, including the children's room, was decorated with gay posters, depicting some of the national costumes and designs. "Russian Contrasts" showed the old and new in architecture and methods of farming, while the poster "Russian Types" was composed of photographs of peasants from all sections of Russia, Tartary, the Ukraine, the Volga, and Samarkand--and others as difficult to spell. A prominent display of books dealing with Russia from all angles, and the bibliographies of magazine articles and books in the South collection were of interest to our borrowers, while the increase in circulation of books about Russia "made our hearts rejoice." Newspaper clippings of interest, including daily reports on the progress of the Washington conference between the President and Maxim Litvinoff, and the announcement of the award of the Nobel Prize to the Russian author Bunin, were put up under the heading, "News Flashes."

The Branch is encouraged by the success of these past exhibits to continue the series along similar lines.

-o-O-o-

The Bushwick Branch commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of its Carnegie building by placing on exhibition at the Branch a collection of rare illuminated manuscripts and Bibles, and books with reproductions in colors of old manuscripts. A reunion tea for members of the library staff who formerly worked at the Bushwick Branch was given on Wednesday, December 20th, at which Marion E. Williams, branch librarian, was hostess. Among those present were Dr. Ferguson, Miss Gwendolen Brown, branch librarian at the Williamsburgh Branch, who was the first branch librarian at Bushwick, Miss Hedwig Roghé, Miss Isabel L. Henderson, Miss Mildred A. Rice, Mrs. Ruth W. Stewart, Miss Mary L. Tuttle, Miss A. Mabel Barrow, Miss Anna P. Shumway, Miss Helen E. Vogel, and Mrs. Rigmor I. Williams.

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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS, MEETING

December 14th was an ideal day for the first Children's Librarian's meeting of the season. Outside the Brownsville Children's Branch the snow had newly fallen. Inside, the logs blazed away merrily in the fireplace. A Christmas tree, festive decorations, and an exhibition of dolls from different countries (lent by Dorothy Gordon) gave the children's room a holiday air.

After Mrs. De Gogorza had cordially welcomed everyone, Miss Irene Smith, delving, as it were, into the mail-bag, read a letter from Miss Hunt and one from Mrs. Eugenia A. Smith. Miss Hunt sent her regrets that she was unable to attend. Mrs. Smith, writing from England, described the library at Croydon. Because the boys in the Croydon children's room keep their caps on, and because the tables fold up and can be removed, Mrs. Smith had the impression that the whole room (like the Arabs) might "silently steal away!"

Book reviews took a unique form at this meeting, the intention being to present the child's point of view. The children themselves (five children's librarians in disguise--- Marjorie Cowles, Mrs. Ruth W. Stewart, Jane Colyer, Elizabeth Groves, and Mrs. Else M. Tondevold) talked about their new Christmas books as they sat around the tree.

After a few words of greeting from Dr. Ferguson, the company went upstairs to the story-hour room, which had surprisingly become an improvised theater. Here they were treated to the first public performance of the Brownsville Children's Branch Puppeteers in the "Holly Goblin's Christmas Eve," which is concerned with the difficulties of Santa Claus and his lost glove. Kasperle, an old toy, the Mama doll, and a detective are called in to help find it--but in vain. Finally Holly appeals to the audience, which, being an intelligent one, of course, solves the mystery and points to the glove, which is dangling over a candle above the fireplace. The puppeteers refused to reveal themselves--but by stealthily peeking behind the curtains we discovered them to be Margaret Freeman, Myra Kershaw, Barbara Smith, Dorothy Lynch, and Evelyn Sarnes.

The serving of refreshments brought this gala occasion to an end.

Eleanore F. Clift (Bj)

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THE LIBRARY OF THE
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AMONG OURSELVES

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A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 10 October 1934

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association

Louis N. Feipel, Chairman (Ad)
Ada J. Cobb (M)
Winifred B. Jackson (S)
Adelaide A. Kennedy (F)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)

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BOOKS AND FLOWERS

Visitors to Brooklyn's Fall Flower Show who possessed sufficient health and spirit had no difficulty in wending their way down the tree-lined path to the very back of the Fourteenth Regiment Armory. Others less able-bodied accomplished the same result by pausing to rest upon the wayside benches which fringed the rock-gardens, and then persisting forward; so that eventually all the straggling streams of humanity reached the nethermost recess, obliquely behind the dance orchestra, which contained the Brooklyn Public Library's display. More than a few people (and not just staff-members, either, though they were of course the tenderest critics) said the book-exhibit was worth the long journey.

Miss Thackray was in charge of all arrangements. The library committee, that on Saturday and Monday before the show opened did toil arduously making the assigned work presentable, could tell some family secrets about this business of giving a public show on a depression budget. What looked to the laity (we hope) like a pleasantly homelike bookish living-room, was a hard-won harmony among odds and ends: a missionary box made up by donations from all the Branches. An inventory would include:

(The seeming)	(The actual)
Sectional bookcases	Department of Library Extension's traveling boxes, freshly varnished
Easels for Miss Jane Niebrugge's water-colors	Bulletin boards from various Branches
Objets d'art	Choice possessions of the more aesthetic staffs, and private property of a few collectors (especially Miss Olcott)
Floor-covering	Rug removed from the staff room at Flatbush
Easy chairs	Windsors from Prospect
New, available B. P. L. books and magazines on flowers, gardens, and kindred subjects	Montague Specials

The most talked-of feature of the library show was the set of six flower studies, pastels on black backgrounds, painted by the sister of Dorothy Niebrugge; beautiful things, each of them. They and the real flowers provided by staff gardeners (we found three or four, but most members disclaimed possession of so much as a window-box) supplied color and brightness in the exhibit. The American Beauty Florist Company generously donated two enormous bouquets, which took care of the center table for the entire week. Furthermore, Flatbush sent its terrarium, containing a tiny pool for a single guppy, in case so much still life became dull.

Miss Thackray, out of old experience in similar circumstances, knew a directory of the branches would be an important asset. Such a guide was lettered by Barbara Smith, making a clear, readable accessory to Dr. Ferguson's library map. Together they covered Brownsville Children's huge bulletin board, and had an audience most of the time. On a shelf under the map were some lists for distribution, compiled by Miss Olcott, Miss Williamson, and Mrs. Bailey.

The Boy's and Girl's Corner occupied part of one side, and attracted its share of grown-ups as well as school classes and individual children. The assortment of J nature-books was enhanced by such beautiful picture-books as Flower Heaven and When the Root Children Wake Up. Lists were given to interested people by the children's librarian in attendance.

The adult collections were on diverse subjects, from roof to dish gardens, from orchids to herbs. They received serious usage and considerable appreciation from people who came in to browse or to ask reference questions about their gardening problems. The committee was constantly cheered by the compliments bestowed upon the book-exhibit, and by the proof of new friends made for the library. The services of staff-members who acted as hostesses, those who made bulletins, or sent books, furniture, flowers, and vases, made this possible.

One tangible aftermath: The National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild has asked the Department of Library Extension to supply books to all their Brooklyn units.

Irene Smith

-o-O-o-

The inconveniences and anxieties caused by the painting and decorating now going on at various Branches are felt no less by readers than by Mr. Martin and other members of the staff. One of Pacific's daily visitors is extremely pessimistic concerning protection given while work progresses on the ceiling of the entrance-way, and carefully raises her umbrella to insure a safe journey from the front door to the charging-desk.

Persistent child (for the fifth time): "Are you sure you haven't got Merrylips?"
Librarian: "No, I have NOT Merrylips!"
Child: "Oh, I know YOU haven't! I mean the book!"

RAMBLING ACROSS COUNTRY

with Dorothy Montgomery

Our aim was Arizona, Utah, and intermediate points. Time was only an obstacle in our rush to reach the wide open spaces. Timothy chugged, snorted, and rattled his way across midwestern torrid heat, heat so terrific that we abandoned day-travel and joined the night-army.

All was forgotten when Timothy, grumbling, came to rest in Denver. Bright flowers were in bloom everywhere. The Rocky Mountains beckoned and we knew we were under the spell of the West. We lost no time in starting on the loop-trip through Estes Park into Rocky Mountain National Park and down into Denver again. It was over all-too soon, as all good things are wont to be. It was a place to stay indefinitely; but, alas, we had but started our trek!

Entrenched at Mesa Verde, we retraced our steps through that incomparable country, mid-Colorado, Salida, Montrose, Durango - names that meant splendor ahead! America's Switzerland! A little village, Ouray, nestling in the hills. Monarch Pass high above the world. A man on horseback, dog by his side, with flame-colored mountains rising behind him. Abandoned mines speaking silently of past activities. There, a quiet lake, men fishing contentedly. We, a few mortals trying to keep on a twisting road. If we could only stop right now and remain transfixed! But then we would have never seen Mesa Verde, the home of a forgotten civilization, the cliff-dwellers. Looking down upon the carefully reconstructed dwellings, one could not be restrained from inhabiting the homes and conjecturing about the daily customs of another time.

One and all followed the Rangers down into the dwellings, climbing down ladders and scrambling over man-made paths. Little is known about the cliff-dwellers. Archeologists have reconstructed a civilization by means of piecing together broken bits of pottery and by making the most of relics found in the dwellings. They have established approximately, by the tree-ring method, the time when these cliff-dwellers lived. The Rangers having refreshed our memories with these facts, we were set loose, not unlike an ancient foe, to revel in a lively imagination. We were fascinated. High above the surrounding country, access to which was until recently a hair-raising ride, we stood and wondered. It was with pangs of regret that we turned our backs upon Mesa Verde and ventured into the open again.

Our old friend the Grand Canyon still lured us. We had marveled and still marveled at the work of that seemingly peaceful Colorado River which had fashioned so momentous a monument of grandeur. Unable to resist a burro-trip down the Bright Angel Trail, we started one bright morning to penetrate its depth. The burros followed their time-honored practice of keeping to the edge of the trail, now and again extending their heads over the edge in order to give their riders the benefit of all the scenery. Dusty and Mabel disliked each other cordially, to the dismay of their riders. We needed all the guide's encouragement to reach the rim that afternoon.

And so on through the Kaibab Forest, through the one and only Painted Desert to Utah, the home of Zion and Bryce. Zion imparted all her peace and dignity; Bryce, her charm and beauty. We wandered down friendly trails, and to each was given something to treasure. At Salt Lake we bade a salty farewell, vowing to come back yet again, if the Cacti-Collectors spared us on the trail home.

-o-O-o-

Considerable interest is being shown in the Second Annual Art Exhibit of the Clinton Art Studio, on display at the Carroll Park Branch from October 6th through October 26th. These young Italian artists, students at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, 145 East 34th Street, Manhattan, show considerable ability; and the Carroll Park Staff are interestedly watching their progress as shown in these annual exhibits. The variety of this exhibit, oil, water-color, and charcoal drawings, with subjects ranging from still-life to scenes on the waterfront, is in contrast to last year's exhibit, in which the medium used was entirely water-color, the subjects being taken from our own waterfront.

Carroll Park Branch is happy these days, as its face has been lifted. It will be glad to have visits from members of the staff during Book Week, particularly former members of the Carroll Park staff.

LIBRARY CONFERENCES

Members of the staff who attended the American Library Association Conference, at Toronto, June 25th through June 30th:

(Ad) Dr. Ferguson, Louis M. Nourse, Irene Smith, (Cd) Mabel T. Horton, Sylvia H. Robinson, (B) Marion A. Burns, (Bo) Jean L. Ross, (Bj) Sarah A. Beard, Catherine Hemmeon, (Bu) Edna C. Ferris, (Ca) Lillian J. McMahon, (E) Margaret F. Williams, (Ep) Caroline Caswell, (Md) Mrs. Marjorie S. Ladd, (M) Emma M. Schultz, Joseph M. Rogers, (Pa) Lila G. Hart, (P) Madge E. Hincher, (Tp) Ethel L. Dobson, (W) Dorothy L. Parker, (T) Dawson M. Leigh

Members of the staff who attended the New York Library Association Conference at Lake Mohonk, September 24th through 29th:

(Ad) Dr. Ferguson, Louis M. Nourse, Joseph P. Connor, Lemuel N. Martin, (Cd) Mabel T. Horton, Sylvia H. Robinson, Nellie E. Hemson, (Bj) Sarah A. Beard, Julia M. Holzapfel, (Bu) Marion E. Williams, Mary S. Granger, (Ca) Mrs. Mary H. Nye, (E) Mrs. Ella M. Perry, Gertrude F. Hubach, Natalie F. Kent, (F) Grace L. Donaghy, (G) Jane M. Colyer, (Kg) Elizabeth Schneidewind, (L) Cecile J. Lynch, Doris M. Franklin, (Ma) Helen R. Burdett, (M) Joseph M. Rogers, (N) Lois Weeden, (P) Nettie E. Lawson, Dorothy M. Thistlethwaite, (Sr) Fannie C. Boies, Mrs. Ruth W. Stewart, Olive Sprague, (S) Dorothy M. Voorhees, (T) Christina L. Davis

Trustee Francis J. Sullivan was an interested participator in both Conferences.

BOOKS I LIKE

Austin----------Earth horizon

Brittain----------Testament of youth

Coatsworth----------The cat that went to heaven

Kang----------The grass roof

Meier-Gräfe----------Vincent Van Gogh

Waln----------The house of exile

Wright, F. L.----------Autobiography

Ella M. Perry
East Branch

-o-O-o-

Dr. Ferguson is the new chairman of the A.L.A. Book-Buying Committee.

Mr. Nourse has been appointed chairman of the A.L.A. Travel Committee for the year 1934-35. He has also been elected chairman of the A.L.A. Junior Members Round Table for the conference year.

Mr. Feipel has been appointed a member of the A.L.A. Bookbinding Committee, of which Earl W. Browning, librarian of the Peoria Public Library, is chairman. Mr. Feipel will welcome suggestions from staff members in this particular field.

Irene Smith was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee of the A.L.A. Section on Library Work for Children. The term is for two years.

It Happened At Midwood

Borrower: "Have you a book called Pork on His Chest, or something like that? That doesn't sound quite right, either. I believe it may be lamb instead of pork."

Assistant (barely able to speak): "Can you possibly mean Lamb in His Bosom?"

Borrower: "Yes, that's it! I knew I didn't have it exactly right."

(The above happened to the one person on Midwood's staff who would never make up a story, even a good one. It was verified by the page, who overheard it.)

A New (Book) Deal

C.W.S. Worker, to branch librarian: "Where do these books (D.P.C.) go---on the Cash-and-Carry Shelves?"

STAFF CHANGES

Evelyn Sarnes (Bj), is now Mrs. Evelyn Sarnes Littlefield; Dorothy Lynch (Bj), Mrs. Dorothy Lynch Quevli; Helen Marshall (D), Mrs. Helen Marshall Leonard; Evelyn Sledge (W), Mrs. Evelyn Sledge Sommerhoff; and Eleanor Cross (W), Mrs. Eleanor Cross Kirmss

Lucille M. Vander Voort (F), announces her marriage to Mr. Stuart H. Craumer, but will continue to be known as Miss Vander Voort.

Esther V. Dempsey (Rh), who is now Mrs. Esther Dempsey Gimenez, has resigned to accompany her husband to Bolivia. Thelma Bartlett (B), who is now Mrs. Thelma Bartlett Smith, has resigned and has left the city. Ona Leadbetter (L), who is now Mrs. Ona Leadbetter Blanchard, has resigned to make her home in Rochester, N. Y.

Mrs. Else M. Tondevold (W), has resigned to devote her entire time to her home.

-o-O-o-

The following glimpses of the literal mind enlivened a very quiet summer day at Pacific.

A young woman returned a copy of While Rome Burns, which she had taken out the night before, with this very indignant protest: "I reserved this book weeks and weeks ago because I was taking a course in Roman history, and now, after waiting so long, I find it is just no use at all."

Another reader presented her card, saying: "I have a dreadful thing to report. My puppy has chewed up a book."

Library Assistant: "What is the name of the book?"

Reader: "Keeping a dog, by Wall."

Library Assistant (much amused): "Evidently your dog did not approve of his training."

Reader (very gravely): "Oh, no; it is not that. He likes the taste of the glue on the binding."

Speaking of the training of dogs, may we add a Believe-it-or-not? A library has been discovered that has a vital interest in that subject, since it depends for its support upon the local dog-tax, or rather what is left of it after payment has been made for damages done by undisciplined dogs. Surely even the B.P.L. has something for which to be grateful, in spite of hard times.

POOR POLICE!

At City Park, a small girl, who evidently had been through the process of procuring a New Series card, was waiting for another child who had just registered. The following conversation ensued: "Teacher, do I get my new card now?" First little girl: "Naw, now it is going to be sent up to the police!" (As we know, all cards are now sent to headquarters to be made.)

THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE MOHONK CONFERENCE

New York Library Association

The Brooklyn Public Library was present 25-strong, and, by unanimous vote, the "Ayes" have it. Mohonk was a delightful place and it was a grand conference. Mohonk Mountain House was an ideal setting and the weather-man was good to us. It was a delight not to hear an auto-horn, or a telephone, or a radio, for a whole blessed week. The mid-Victorian hotel is built right on - in fact, over-the lake; and from the front porch a wide panoramic view across to the mountains gave us a chance to watch the mists roll away in the morning or to enjoy the most gorgeous sunsets. There is a quiet friendliness about the place - conservative, to be sure: it must be the simple Quaker feeling instilled by the Smiley brothers who built it.

Miss Rose announced the general theme to be "The Library as a Force in This Changing World." When we had listened to the many fine speakers, each a leader in his or her field, the essence of all the meetings seemed to be to impress upon librarians the opportunities we have to touch all the life around us, in cultural, social-service, and recreational ways. We remember Dr. Ferguson spoke of the A.L.A. meeting at New Orleans and bemoaned the fact that though the meetings were held in a hall dedicated to music, drama, and other arts, not one program was devoted to those arts!. Quite the opposite at Mohonk. There was scarcely a routine meeting. It was taken for granted each library had brains enough to work out its own salvation and methods employed. Instead, representatives from walks of life about which we are constantly buying books - and down in our hearts longing to know more of - talked to us in the most friendly cooperative way.

There was almost a surfeit of good meetings; but we believe Miss Rose felt that members who came only for a day or two should have much to choose from. They were certainly varied enough to suit all tastes! There were many highlights. Miss Rose's opening talk was short and to the point, - to help the man who shows a keen desire to be helped. Dr. Harvey N. Davis, of Stevens Institute of Technology, quoted some writer who had said it was the library's duty to give access to enduring satisfactions, and he spoke of developing our understanding of human nature. In fact, that point was brought out in one way or another by almost every one of the speakers through the week.

Monday afternoon Brooklyn came to the fore when Mr. Rogers led the Young People's Session and later when Mrs. Ruth Weeden Stewart told the story of the Peterkins' Tea-Party at the association's tea-party. Every one thoroughly enjoyed the story-telling.

There were several panel discussions. One was led by Clarence Sherman, of Providence, in which Dr. Ferguson and Mr. Lowe took part. They discussed scholarship, censorship, and leadership, much more informally than the title implies. They seem to reach the conclusion that good old common-sense and much tact saves most situations. Also, that though librarians may not know everything, it is well for them to know where to find everything and be able to direct those who are seeking special information.

Dr. Alain Locke pleaded for toleration and healthy views of our own and other race traditions. The evening meeting led by Miss Lawton of the Music Library, N.Y.P.L., was a rare treat. To hear Mary Cecil Allen talk of painters and painting in her very English manner, to which was added a delightful sense of humor, was great fun. There was much applause when she said, "Self-expression is just another name for showing off!"

Mr. John Martin, Dance Critic of the New York Times, urged us to think of the dance by itself, apart from music or singing. Mme. Samaroff-Stokowski told of a music-appreciation course at the Juillard School, where she gives every one the best in music from the very beginning and does not cater to undeveloped tastes. That evening's program concluded with piano selections composed and played by Paul Nordoff, a pupil of Dvorak, and a sonata for violin, played by Mme. Schuhari.

Just to list the names of Mrs. Pearl Buck, Dr. Overstreet, Dr. William Bohn, Fredrick Melcher, Lyman Bryson, Stephen Vincent Benet, shows what the conference held in store for us. A. A. Berle, our City Chamberlain, hit the very high spot of the conference, as Dr. Tolman put it, in his talk which we hope will be printed some day. The Thursday night party was great fun. Miss Dorothy Voorhees, with a supporting company composed of members of the Entertainment Committee, starred again in the shadow-play, "The Librarian's Nightmare." Buffalo librarians gave a very clever library skit, "Detectives on the Loose," written by one of their staff. Then Miss May Gadd, of the English Folk Dance Society of America, led over a hundred of us in folk-dances. Even the Brussels carpet on the floor of that mid-Victorian parlor was no deterrent to our dancing feet! Some people danced who had never before been known to leave their chairs at any entertainment.

It is an old Mohonk custom to have a huge tray of fruit brought into the main foyer hall each night. Everyone gathered around and there was a chance to meet celebrities or just visit new or old friends around the fireplace or the long writing-tables while the bus-boy filled and refilled the tray.

The whole Mohonk country had welcomed us. There was bathing and boating, bicycle-riding, tennis, golf, and walks and rides--quiet old-fashioned ones behind sleek horses or tally-ho, or long auto-trips, and one delightful afternoon when many were the guests of the quaint village of Newport--or just happy moments when one could "set a spell" and enjoy so much without moving from the porch! It certainly was an inspiring conference, that made us all feel that libraries and librarians are a force in this changing world.

Helen R. Burdett

-o-O-o-

Dr. Ferguson and Doris M. Franklin defeated Grinton I. Will (librarian of Yonkers Public Library) and Eleanor Snow (children's librarian in the White Plains Public Library) in a tennis-match while attending the Lake Mohonk conference.

Margaret Williams, a Children's Librarian at East, has made through a long period of time (and will continue for a still longer time, of course) an unusually complete and splendid picture-file, specializing in artists and their best-known pictures. Many of the pictures are in color, and are quite lovely. Teachers in the neighborhood find it increasingly useful - as well they may. The pictures can be borrowed by other Branches.

On July 31st, the Library had a hurried visit from James Ross, City Librarian of Bristol, England. Mr. Ross was one of the visiting British librarians at the Montreal Conference whose trips were financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The Library has received additional funds ($2,387.50) from the Estate of Dick S. Ramsay. The original $10,000 bequest was received in September, 1932.

Be sure to read Katherine C. Gallivan's distinctive paper, "Library Day for Hospital Children," which will appear in one of the November issues of the Library Journal.

Irene Smith is contributing an article on "Books for the Children's Christmas" to the December issue of Elementary English Review.

Mollie H. Siegfried (Bu) won 1st prize ($5.00) in the H. W. Wilson Company's contest for "the best letters describing specific instances of the use of the subject and title index (contained in the back of each issue of the Book Review Digest) for either making the sale of books in a bookstore or causing the circulation of books from a library."

During Book Week, Leonard Branch will have on display its Exhibit Collection, comprising about 150 beautiful editions. There will be Book Week teas on Thursday and Friday, from 3 to 5 P.M. A cordial invitation is extended to the B.P.L. staff to visit Leonard at this or any other time.

Mrs. Eugenia Arnold Smith has a little daughter, Susan Porter, born August 11th.

MORE QUEER NAMES

"U. READ Macbeth," the preferred form of Ulysses Read Macbeth

Catherine Lapelosa

Cheerful Louise Snyder

Costa Mosquito

Josie Wilson (Ep) returned very much tanned and full of enthusiasm after an interesting tour to California via the Panama Canal. Judging from the snapshots she has been showing, she was far from lonesome!

A June vacation in England was enjoyed by Jane M. Colyer, of the Greenpoint staff.

An economics teacher at Brooklyn College was giving a lecture on modern efficiency. "It took the Egyptians 267 years to build a pyramid. It took a hundred years to build a cathedral in the middle ages. It took----------"

"That's nothing," came a skeptical voice from the rear, "Brooklynites can remember that the Public Library has been under construction since 1870."

Brooklyn College "Spotlight"

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AMONG OURSELVES

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A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

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TWO CONVENTIONS FOR ONE TRUSTEE

Trustee Francis J. Sullivan Reports to Board of Trustees

At the Montreal and Lake Mohonk Conferences, Francis J. Sullivan, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, represented the Library on behalf of the Trustees. Mr. Sullivan made his report at the October meeting of the Board. Among other things Mr. Sullivan had this to say:

"After about fifteen years' service here with this honorable Board, I had quite come to a complex that meant I knew something about public libraries. Now I shrink from presuming to tell with any adequacy of expression what are the potential powers of a public library conceived with any notion of its immense range of influence in education, culture in the arts and sciences, and even of religion.

"Leaving a workaday world with its more or less gross pursuits, I found myself in each instance transported into a world which, while it thinks of mundane things, is rightly more concerned with spiritual values as they may be seen in the activities of mankind everywhere. And now, standing here, reflecting upon the visions I have been privileged to enjoy, I not only fear to attempt a proper painting of the scenes portrayed, for want of time and my capacity to have digested all of the feasts offered for intellect and ambition and civic pride, but also to speak of these things here in a place accustomed to expeditious meetings made generally as brief and cursory as the human mind could decently contrive. In our generosity, we give the public of Brooklyn one fleeting hour per month to pass almost solely upon trifles about trade and maintenance accounts, with rarely a thought about aspirations of the human heart and mind that can find a measurable though limited satisfaction in library service. One comes back home from these conferences feeling that our potential powers are a constant challenge to our trust relations to keep pace with the common experience that appears to be abroad in the world of books and libraries. Here, I feel, is in all consistency a test of our trustworthiness just as much as in some fiduciary problems that we have contemplated.

"At the outset, in Montreal, a program of high quality and tone marked the opening of the convention when the A.L.A. was welcomed by Dr. Charles F. Martin, dean of the faculty of medicine at McGill University. He spoke of the stimulus that came to Montreal after an A.L.A. conference in 1900, when there was no public library there. But a direct result was the realization of a civic library by 1902. He also deftly drew the contrast between merely owning a collection of books and the necessary postulate of education on that account. Their use and appreciation make all the difference in the world and lead on ultimately to making the community library-conscious. And so it went on, through a week's program, ever presenting things of culture, education, and social well-being---all growing in direct proportion to the needs of the people and their distress in times of depression. To reports of these things I must simply beg leave merely to refer you.

"From the Council of the A.L.A. comes to Trustees this request in regard to shortage of books, increased demand, and decreased income: they are urged to call this acute situation to the attention of appropriating bodies, urging them more adequately to provide funds for books without related curtailment of personnel which is equally necessary for effective service.

"I would not have you think that I emphasize unduly spiritual or cultural worlds built up in libraries. Utility is an immense field of its possibilities. Indeed, Miss Jennie Flexner (New York Public Library) likened a library to a public utility. Said she: 'The supply of water and light are regulated, safeguarded, and kept pure. It is harder to furnish a city adequately with books than with water. There are engineers who know all about water-supply. But we who would and should draw the specifications for book-supply are still not sure of our way. The idea of the public library as a public utility, however, is provocative and full of implications for development.'

"Trustees seem to have been the earnest object of librarians' solicitude. I find them referred to as 'august' and what not. I take it as a genteel reminder that trustees generally may be out of touch with the empires of souls and thought and persons and cultural facilities they fancy they may be ruling, when, perhaps, for the most part they may be blissfully unaware of their full duty and responsibility. The A.L.A. has marshalled 'Ten Reasons Why Trustees Should Join the A.L.A.' They strike me as convincing, though a couple suffice. In the State Conference, the same prayer seems to be upon the lips of those who understand and speak up with gracious tact.

"The State Conference at Mohonk carried on in the main quite similarly, though on a reduced scale. The percentage of Trustees there was smaller. Round-tables galore are held in these meetings. The gratifying note I make of them is that with goodly representation at each meeting from our staff association, they attended with evident zeal and yearning for personal improvement in their own desire to be more serviceable. Their esprit-de-corps was very apparent, and their loyalty to one another and to our institution here might well be deemed gratifying. At Mohonk, 'Brooklyn' put on a little play to add a merry note to an evening's joy.

"At Montreal, I came in contact with a grand character in the person of John T. Vance, Law Librarian of the Library of Congress. He enjoys a rare distinction. Two months later, at the American Bar Association meeting in Milwaukee, I met him again. He remembered me as of the Brooklyn Public Library. He saw to it there that I was invited as a special guest to a luncheon of the 'Friends of the Law Library of Congress' and that I should have a seat of honor on the dais. I had heard him preside in Montreal at an event to which had come two great members of the Canadian judiciary to grace the occasion with dignity and erudition.

"These meetings were worth while. If to appreciate what they stand for and how we may profit for the public good in Brooklyn, let us have a campaign of study and become a cogent part in the making of library standards. In these meetings, thoughtful people are not merely lifting themselves by their boot-straps. They are our fellow citizens. They are pointing the way to satisfaction of soul aspirations. We must travel some ourselves if we would not delude ourselves in our high and mighty station. Our trust spells many obligations. We have an immense laboratory. Brooklyn expects even from her volunteers a stewardship that is of the noblest and very best!"

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The Child and the Book

A police-car stopped in front of the Brownsville Branch. One of its occupants walked in, carrying a book. "Any way to trace the person who took this out?" The book was minus a card. "Aha, a stolen book!" chortled the librarian; "or at least a lost one." Going to the circulation-tray, she found the number of the borrower's card, consulted the files, and gave the borrower's name and address to the young officer, who seemed not disrespectful toward such efficiency. The librarian's questioning glance brought forth the reply: "We found a kid wandering about on Pitkin Avenue with this book. Wanted to find out where he belongs." "Do you want to leave the book?" asked the librarian. "Oh, no; his mother may not have finished it!" The officer tucked the book under his arm, ran down the steps, got into the roadster beside a blonde curly-haired mite, and drove off.

Optimistic!

Librarian (to a borrower wishing to reserve a book): "Is that in our catalogue? I can order it---"
Borrower (interrupting): "Oh, isn't that nice! You mean you will buy it for me if it isn't here?"

Hobbyhorses at Brownsville

Horseback-riding; Swimming; Hiking; Roller-skating; Bridge; Dancing; Coin-collecting; Crocheting; Pie contests (both baking and eating); Deep-sea fishing.

BRANCH BOOK SELECTION

The following suggestion is submitted without criticism and without prejudice.

A great deal of a branch librarian's time is spent on the monthly book-order, and it seems to me that much of this labor could be lightened, if distributed; also, that a distribution of this work would make for a better-balanced collection, since individual taste must count to some extent.

My suggestion, therefore, is that each member of the staff be required (I say "required" advisedly, since, human nature being what it is, many would, without consideration, vote "no," if consulted) to submit on a stated date (early enough to give the branch librarian time for consideration) a certain number of titles---2, 4, 6, according to the length of the order and the size of the staff----each slip giving author, title, price, publisher, date, review read, and any other reason why such book should be added to the collection, whether the book be old or new. These book-order slips could be taken up by the branch librarian at a staff-meeting, when she could state briefly which had been approved and which rejected, and why.

This method of handling the monthly book-order seems to me to have several advantages in addition to those mentioned above.

a. It would require every member of the staff to read book-reviews,---something every library assistant should do, but doesn't.

b. It would give each member of the staff valuable experience and a more personal interest in the collection.

c. It would make her more intelligent in her contact with the borrowing public.

Dorothy M. Thistlethwaite (P)

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MR. WOOLLCOTT IS ABASHED

A copy of the October issue of "Among Ourselves," calling attention to the "While Rome Burns" item, was sent to Alexander Woollcott, who graciously replied, as follows:

October 28, 1934

My dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for letting me see "Among Ourselves." The plight of the young woman who reserved "While Rome Burns" under a pardonable misapprehension considerably abashes me.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Alexander Woollcott

POTPOURRI OF TITLES

The following clever little skit conceals fifty book-titles (including one or two well-known quotations). It was inspired by the sad plight of one of Brownsville's fair damsels at "Hope Corners," Long Island.

Young Lady in Distress. My car is stalled! What is to be done? And on the wrong side of the tracks! I wonder if there are any men without women around. Oh, I see a light in the store! Yahoo, dah!

Postmaster of Small Town. A lively lady! Let's have a Pe(e)king picnic. (The tumult and the shouting cease.) You men of good will, here's a dark pilgrimage. Come in at the door, while we try to find a soft spot.

Young Lady. Father will be worried. Within the present there will be heavy weather. I'm sure we'll be in sight of Eden before to-morrow morning.

Postmaster. Page Mr. Pomeroy! Oh, no, he's on a family cruise. (Dr. Thorndyke intervenes, protecting Margot from the roaring river that threatens her life.) Call the minister's wife; she'll broadcast the news. The radio's without armor.

Young Lady. No matter where. This seems to be Cold Comfort Farm. Might as well come out of the pantry, and there's no second spring in the bedroom, so we'll have to go back to the farm. The winds of chance will blow us no good. And I'm getting water on the brain.

Postmaster. Best to stem those tides of life. It's up to you to fix the car, fellows. Ah, now I see; it's the crossing that brought on the crisis! The senator's lady got upset and didn't notice it was time to refuel. Fill 'er up, and stand up and cheer.

Young Lady. Any train north?

Postmaster. No, thank you!

Young Lady. Any train south?

Postmaster. Not for twenty-four hours.

Young Lady. Never the twain shall meet, so it's my system to cross with flying colors. And I'm twelve miles from a lemon, so farewell to (h)arms.

NOTE RECEIVED AT BRANCH DESK

"Please allow my brother to take out books on my card for obvious reasons."

RHYMES AND CHATTER FROM THE STOCKROOM

(For our autograph-album)

M ay I write something for your magazine?
I will try and do my best.
L et me write something which is not often seen,
T o all of you, which I will try and put to a test.
O n reading this over you may see
N ot much, after all, you will agree.

J ust peruse it carefully and reflect;

F ind, if you will, anything which I neglect.
E very line means something, I am sure.
R emember I always try to be demure,
G entle and kind, and you will find.
U nderstand, I only have one thing in mind.
S oon I will be through with these lines,
O n which I have tried to be gallant.
N ow, maybe you think I haven't any talent!

Curtis H. Taft, Stock Clerk (Ad)

FORMER B.P.L. STOCK CLERK PUBLISHES POEM

B. A. ("Barney") Heimbinder, who was employed by the Library as Stock Clerk at 26 Brevoort Place, and who has since been engaged in the printing business, has blossomed out as a poet, with his "White Conquest: An Epic of Antarctica." This long narrative poem was published privately on September 15 in a limited edition of 250 copies, specially designed and bound, of which only 210 were for sale. A copy has been purchased for the Library.

The book was submitted in manuscript to Admiral Richard E. Byrd, who wrote to the author as follows: "I am very much moved by the poetry you have written.---My descendants will prize the book always, I am sure, and I want to send you my sincere and enduring appreciation."

The book has likewise received favorable comments from Florence B. Freedman, Frieda Sandberg Lewis, and Professor Laurence M. Gould.

AN ECHO FROM OLD WILLIAMSBURGH

William T. Powers, the Republican candidate for Attorney General of the State of New York at the recent election, relates how he was influenced toward his early Army career, some twenty-odd years ago, by a book dealing with West Point life which he borrowed from the Williamsburgh Branch one day, after debating with himself whether he should take one more book or not on that occasion.

Under his arm were several volumes which might be of value for mental advancement, but which could hardly be called exciting. As he surveyed the shelves, he was aware of no crisis in his life. Whether he took the extra book or not didn't seem vital at the moment; and yet the book was finally to exert a far-reaching influence on his career.

The West Point book succeeded in kindling in young Powers a burning desire to enter the Army via the United States Military Academy. Then, in 1916, Congressman James V. Flynn arranged a competitive examination to select his nominee for West Point; and when the papers were marked, young Powers stood Number One on the list.

He left the Army to study law, and is now attorney for a large motion-picture theatre chain, in which capacity he makes frequent trips between New York and Hollywood. His present residence is in Flatbush.

POOR BEE-OH

A young man had been told of various fines he owed at several branches. While the assistant at the registration desk was trying to convince him that he was really in debt, another assistant leaned over and whispered quite audibly:

"Don't forget to tell him about the card at Bo." (B-o was emphasized.)

"Oh, my dear ladies, you are not accusing me of THAT, too?"

OVERHEARD AT THE D.P.C. DESK

"If I had a nickel I'd take 'The Lively Lady' out."

INDIVIDUAL COPIES OF "AMONG OURSELVES"

There are about 25 copies of the October issue of "Among Ourselves" available for special sale to individuals. Price 10¢ a copy.

Anyone wanting a year's subscription (10 issues) can have it by paying 75¢ in advance. Subscriptions will begin with the October issue.

REQUEST FROM A SMALL BOY

"I want a book on the oranges (origins) of the World War."

Books that remain in my memory — Grace E. McDowell (Ep)

Masefield	Right Royal
Greene	Lone winter
Baker	Adventures in contentment
Farnol	Broad highway
Pumpelly	Memoirs
Mitford	Our village
Boyd	My farm in lion country

A few of the new and old books I have especially enjoyed — Caroline Caswell (Ep)

Browne	That man Heine
Herbert	Water gipsies
Undset	Kristin Lavransdatter
Morgan	The fountain
Stein	Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas
Waln	House of exile
Hilton	Lost horizon

Books that I like — Cecile J. Lynch (L)

Cellini	Autobiography
Browne	That man Heine
Turgeniev	Fathers and children
Waddell	Peter Abelard
Cather	Lost lady
Nizami	Poems
Davis	Bar sinister

FURTHER MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elsie Marie MacTavish (Cs) is now Mrs. Gordon Miles Fagan

Elizabeth Bettencourt (D) is now Mrs. Jerome L. Mendell

Mrs. Dorothy Brevoort Wescoat, formerly at Saratoga, was recently married to Lieut. William H. Ashford, Jr., of the Naval Air Service.

VITAL STATISTICS

Montague has received word of the following arrivals: On September 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald E. Thompson, a son, Douglas Cushman Thompson (Mrs. Thompson was formerly Carolyn Cushman); and on October 29th, to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carroll, a daughter, Nancy Ward Carroll (Mrs. Carroll was formerly Phyllis R. Kane).

The following vital-statistics request was recently received at Montague: "Have you a book that will tell me what day I was born?"

A BONER?

Overheard at the desk: "Well, it looks queer to me---sort of euphonious, I think."

NAMES REGISTERED AT BROWNSVILLE

Mae Bloom
Jack Hamburger
Sadie Gazes
Boyd Mann

Rose Bush
Kay Kaviar
Hyman Angel

Francis B.Frank
Pal Friend
Ida Herzakow
Raphael Angel

MORE VACATION REPORTS

Celia Vinograd (Bo) spent her vacation in Europe. Sailing for Naples, she toured North Italy, and then visited Kiev and Moscow. Her first-hand observations of Soviet life and the Soviet theatre are most interesting.

A. Mabel Barrow (Bo) returned in August from a three-months tour of Italy. While there she took a summer course at the University of Perugia.

Mary Sacken (Bo) visited the Chicago Fair, taking the Great Lakes trip en route.

EXPIRING IN THE BRANCHES

Small girl: "I was supposed to expire on March 4th, and I didn't. Can I expire now?

Which reminds us of the other small girl who inquired, "Teacher, could I expire for my brother?"

ON BECOMING A LIBRARIAN

Here's a new way in which a mother inquired whether her nine-year-old daughter's "CR" card had arrived: "Is my daughter a librarian yet? She joined a week ago!"

HERE COMES YOUR DADDY NOW

A certain young college teacher couldn't get a book at the Montague Branch, and was referred to her local branch, where she had been a card-holder since her eleventh year. When she applied at the desk for a new card, the librarian looked up her record and asked sweetly, "And what does your daddy do?"

---Brooklyn College Spotlight

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Librarian (at registration desk): "Your occupation?"

Borrower: "Why--er--rather good, I should say."

Librarian (puzzled): "Good?"

Borrower: "Yes, Didn't you ask about my reputation?"

BRANCH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES FOR 1934-5

Ad	E. Christine Smith	G	Frances Libby
A	Elsie M. Reed	Ir	Linsley Dougherty
Br	Nettie Coulbourne	K	Margot Meinke
B	Marjorie P. Holt	Kg	Blanche Emanuel
Bh	Vilma Johnson	L	Mary A. Dunn
Bo	Anne Durward	Ma	Ethel P. Fuller
Bj	Margaret Freeman	Md	Martha P. Oderman
Bu	Mary C. O'Keane	M	Virginia McBride
Cs	Mrs. Ida G. Rosenstrauch	N	Lois Weeden
Ca	Mildred Buente	Pa	Marion C. Walsh
Cp	Mrs. Rigmor I. Williams	P	Jane Lyon
Ci	Molly Greenberg	Rh	Mrs. Margaret C. Hiller
C	Gwendolen MacFarland	Sr	Mrs. Kate S. Boccia
Cr	Faith L. Allen	Sh	Ruth Lamson
D	Marjorie L. Cowles	S	Signe B. Swenson
E	Jeanndtte D. Clear	Tp	Cathryn Bergen
Ep	Josie Wilson	W	Dorothy L. Parker
F	Adelaide Kennedy	Cd	Sylvia Robinson
Ft	Alice F. Hale	T	Marjorie Herrick

THE OCTOBER STAFF ASSOCIATION MEETING

The first meeting of the Staff Association for this year was held Friday evening, October 26, in the auditorium of the Bedford Branch. There were about one hundred and sixty people present to hear Dr. Ferguson and see the marionettes.

After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Nourse introduced Dr. Ferguson, who told us of the trip which he made recently to Prince Edward Island. Although he was on the island only a few days, Dr. Ferguson was afforded the opportunity of visiting many of the branch libraries and of seeing the greater part of the island. Dr. Ferguson went there for the purpose of making a survey of a new scheme of library service begun on Prince Edward Island under the auspices of the Carnegie Foundation. In a brief talk Dr. Ferguson gave a graphic picture of economic and social conditions as well as some indication of the scope of the Carnegie library project.

At the conclusion of Dr. Ferguson's talk, the Bedford Marionettes put on a fine performance of "Rumpelstiltchen". This was enthusiastically received by the audience, with exclamations of delight at the deft handling of the marionettes and at the singing. After the lights went up, the cast held an impromptu reception back-stage and obligingly explained the intricacies of marionette construction and direction.

The parts were taken by:

Miss Burns----------The King
Miss Treworgy----------The Miller's Daughter and the Queen
Miss Johnson----------The Miller
Mrs. Whitsen----------Peter

BOOK WEEK AT KINGS HIGHWAY

Book Week at Kings Highway this year was all the more interesting since the subject chosen is our children's librarian's pet hobby. Though many of us are interested in work with the blind, Miss Schneidewind went a step further and took a course in transcribing ink print into Braille. She became so interested in the subject that she undertook transcribing the "Story of the Flying Ship" for the use of blind children.

She borrowed a copy of the "Little Lame Prince and Clean Peter" in Braille from the New York Public Library, and the song "Go, Lovely Rose," and, with these, exhibited the same titles in ink-print books for our more fortunate children. The exhibit, besides the books, consisted of paper used for book-making, the board, slate, stylus, eraser, and a chart showing the alphabet, words, and parts of words and numerals. There was also another chart giving the alphabet and the Lord's Prayer in Moon type.

A week before Book Week, two high-school students, from different schools, were sent to the library with this question: "How do blind people read the Braille system?" All the material was available at the time, so the needed help was given. We thought they were very fortunate in coming to Kings Highway with this question, as a demonstration was given them by our children's librarian, who had taken the course.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF 1928 AND ITS FUNCTIONS

Twice a year that esoteric society, the XOSA, meets in some restaurant not too far from Broadway, and, after sufficient deliberation over the menu, adjourns to the play of its choice.

These ex-Officers of the Staff Association, 1928, were a most businesslike group until one of them, who never lets slip an occasion for a party, suggested their fêting the retiring president; whereupon they turned to the life of pleasure which has been so agreeable to them ever since.

They will celebrate their tenth anniversary (not in years, but in plays) next spring; and the occasion should be, according to the Promoter of Parties, "a blowout."

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Dishes Available for Staff Parties

Travelling-cases have been purchased by the Staff Association to convey dishes from branch to branch, on demand. These Association-owned dishes are available for any branch function at any time. Requests should be sent to Miss Burdett, at Macon, at which branch the dishes are stored when not in use.

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AMONG OURSELVES

B.P.L.
STAFF
ASS'N
1934
1935

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 12 December 1934

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association
in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Louis N. Feipel, Chairman (Ad) Adelaide A. Kennedy (F)
Ada J. Cobb (M) Jean L. Ross (Bo)
Winifred B. Jackson (S) Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

December 20, 1934

Dear Friends:

Here we are again at that time of year, when if ever, we take a look at our hearts, and try to wish them beautiful and kind and sympathetic. Those who are most successful in this search will probably discover that it is not the magic Yuletide touch which gives the charm, but our unconscious growth during the days and weeks and months that have gone before. Perhaps one's occupation may be kind or otherwise in making him the manner of man he becomes. Traffic officers in a big city, burned by the summer sun and chilled by wintry blasts, breathing the fumes of motors and beset by heedless drivers should find some excuse if they eventually harden and develop sharp tongues. Poets in their cloisters inditing musical verses about love and the beauty of fair ladies, about melodious birds and the freshness of flowers blooming under perfect skies, ought to grow in gentleness and strength and human kindness. Librarians fall some place between these two extremes; and so have to make less effort than some to attain that mellowness of spirit in harmony with the Christmas choir. For these blessings let us give thanks.

The year fast going has brought us a sufficiency of trials, and I am sure victories not to be forgotten. If, along with a troubled world, we have not been able to make over our way of living according to a more perfect pattern, we have at least maintained our sanity and faith in our service to mankind. After all, the profits of our trade far outweigh the losses; because right spirit can never be bartered for better goods.

Well, my hope is that during the pain of last moment shopping, during the disappointments which all men know, we may not forget the reasons we have for thanks, for cheerfulness, for resolution to grow this coming year in deeds and grace. I do wish you that old, old wish "Merry Christmas," but in a spirit not dulled by mere repetition My confidence and joy in you have burgeoned during the twelvemonth past; and I as surely expect that 1935 will confirm me in that faith and understanding.

Sincerely yours

MILTON J. FERGUSON

CHRISTMAS PROMOTIONS IN "THE BAG"

(Meaning by "Bag," of course, "Chimney Stocking")

Action taken by the Board of Trustees on December 18th brought a real Christmas present to several members of the staff who have been languishing on the Eligible Lists for quite some time. After months of inability to make new appointments, the Library has been allowed finally to fill several vacancies. A happy forecast of such action was the announcement by Dr. Ferguson at the Branch Librarians' Meeting, December 7th, that Ada J. Cobb had been appointed Librarian of Montague Branch.

The other promotions and transfers, effective January 1st, areas follows: Marguerite E. Gregg, transferred from Bushwick to Montague, the resulting vacancy at Bushwick being filled by the promotion of Bessie G. Gregg from City Park; Jane V. Lyon, transferred from Prospect to City Park; Eugenia M. Southard, promoted from Grade 1 to Grade 2 at Prospect; Frances E. Wood, transferred from Saratoga to Red Hook, the vacancy at Saratoga being filled by the transfer of Adele Havighorst from Irving; Helen P. Bolman, promoted from Williamsburgh to be Assistant Branch Libraian, Grade 3, at Irving; Olive Sprague, promoted from Grade 1 at Saratoga to Grade 2 at Williamsburgh; Mrs. Eleanor F. Clift, promoted from Bay Ridge to Bedford, to fill the position of Children's Librarian, Grade 3, left vacant by the resignation of Trotman C. Barrow; Lucille M. Vander Voort, promoted from Grade 1 at Flatbush to Grade 2 at Bedford; Sylvia D. Crane, promoted from Grade 1 at Kings Highway to Grade 2 at Greenpoint; Ruth M. McEvoy, promoted from Midwood to the position of Assistant Children's Librarian, Grade 2, at Brownsville Children's; and Julia M. Holzapfel, transferred from Brownsville Children's to Leonard.

Mrs. Elsie McTavish Fagan, Canarsie, resigns on December 31, to devote her entire time to her home and family. Ruth B. Ferguson was appointed Library Assistant, Grade 2, at the Macon Branch, on December 1st.

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"LEND A HAND, NEIGHBOR"

The Citizens Family Welfare Committee is asking employees again to give 2% of their weekly salary for ten weeks, or any sum which they can afford, in an effort to reach a goal of $2,000,000 needed for the work of the private welfare agencies in the five boroughs of New York City. All pledges are purely voluntary. Those members of the staff who wish to make a contribution may send their names to Mr. Nourse.

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Another New Arrival

Announcement has been made of the birth of Carol Betty Wagner, on November 18th. Carol's mother, Mrs. Etta Greenberg Wagner, was formerly on the Kensington staff.

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AN INTERCHANGE WORKER'S LAMENT

The book is for B;
So I write to Cp,
And they say, "It's in constant demand!"

Then I write to Ci,
And here's the reply:
"We haven't the said book on hand!"

I write to Bu,
And they say, "It's too new!"
(I just play the part of the finder.)

I write to Ma,
And here's what they say:
"Just now it has gone to the binder!"

I write to Red Hook;
And then, when I look,
"Your request is granted," it read.

The slip shows the date,
But, lo, I must wait--
Ten standing reserves are ahead!

The request was in June,
Or, maybe, July;
And now we are into November.

When B gets that book,
As it comes from Red Hook,
I'm sure 't will be late in December.

--Alfred Cafiero

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Children's Museum Entertains Children's Librarians

The Children's Librarians' Meeting on December 13 was held at the Children's Museum. This institution, Brooklynites are proud to remember, was the first and for a long time the only Children's Museum in the world. Many of our Branches have borrowed material to illustrate their exhibits from the Museum's large loan collection.

It was a great pleasure to be able to hear about the work which has been a blessing to hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn children. Miss Anna Gallup, Director, and five heads of departments, including the librarian, gave brief talks, after which our Brooklyn Public Library librarians were escorted over the two buildings.

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A TRIP TO ANOTHER WORLD

This it seemed to me, sailing from New York on a small cargo-boat to Frontera, a little town in the state of Tabasco, Mexico.

From the time our boat left New York until our arrival at Key West for a short stop, the hours were packed with rest and sunshine. Then, diagonally crossing the Gulf of Mexico, we reached the mouth of the Tabasco River. Sailing slowly up this river with evidences of jungle on both sides, we came suddenly upon the small Mexican town of Frontera. We were hospitably received, and enjoyed for a day and a half the color and life of the Mexican people. The simple life of these native people made a strong appeal. The little town is peculiarly Mexican, still unspoiled by time or change.

It took the full time to load the 30,000 bananas, and then, after a gay farewell, the boat turned homeward.

To anyone anxious to lose that tired desire "of getting away from it all," this short Atlantic seaboard cruise is highly recommended.

--Margaret Rebenklau (B)

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It Happened in Canarsie

Young Lady: "I want a book on costume-design. The number is 822 C874D."

Assistant: "But that is the wrong number. That is the number for English drama."

Young Lady: "It is 'Design for Living'!"

Assistant: "Well, that is a play. What do you want on costume-design?"

Young Lady: "The costumes of the Greeks and Romans. Ancient history."

Assistant (after resorting to the shelves and handing her a book on historic costumes): "This is a book on the costumes of the Greeks and Romans."

Young Lady: "Thank you; and may I have 'Design for Living'?"

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Unnatural Naturalization

Small girl (proudly flourishing her new library-card and introducing a friend at the registration-desk): "Will you please give her her first papers?"

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Our Dear Branch Librarians

My dear Miss----------:

Referring to your last card concerning the loss of the book, "Randall, Making of the Modern Mind," and your request that I beging weekly payments to cover the cost of the book, I am sorry to state that I cannot do so.

Much as I would like to repay the Library for the loss of the book, I am unwilling to bind myself to pay through a period of over one half-year. When I have the amount available I shall gladly repay my just debt.

Until then I can only reiterate that I have urgent need of my reader's card and would be grateful to receive the use of it again. I know that such a procedure would be a violation of rules; but if rules were not violated, there would be no need for them. I am sure that you will agree with me that time and circumstance can make even the wisest rule an untelligent one. In this case I think it serves no purpose other than to be irritating. I admit the obligation. I promise to repay. To refuse me the use of a reader's card until it is repaid does not penalize me because I do not pay, but because I cannot pay.

But perhaps you do not understand what I mean.

Yours respectfully,

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A Study in Magazines

Anxious Young Man: "Have you 82 magazines?"

Astonished Librarian: "I am very sorry. We did have 85, but almost all have been cancelled because of lack of funds. We have only a few left." (Escorts young man to magazine-rack.)

Young Man (a few minutes later): "I can't find the magazine."

Librarian: "Which one were you looking for?"

Young Man: "82."

Librarian: "We have no magazine by that name. How do you spell it?"

Young Man: "E-T-U-D-E" ! ! !

Eastern Parkway's New Location

An old-time Flatbush borrower returned to the Branch, saying he had been sent to Eastern Parkway to renew his card, as he was now domiciled in that district. But he thought the laugh was on him, because the caretaker at "Eastern Parkway" (the Central Building) said the Library was not open for use, as yet. The caretaker went on to say he didn't know when that would be, as the building was unfinished, and could the youg man get another card at Flatbush in the meantime.

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What Form of Name Do You Use?

City Park would like to know if anyone has met this lady:

Mrs. Wig of the Garden Patch; or
Mother Witch of the Garbage Patch; or
Mrs. Raggs of the Cabbage Patch; or
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Pants; or
Mrs. Trix of the Cabbage Patch; or
Mrs. Webb by the Garden Patch.

These are a few of the names she is called at that Branch.

And at Brownsville a youngster of the teen-age inquired: "Have you an autobiography of "Root Knock-Knee"? (Cap these, if you can.)

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100,000,000 Guinea Pigs Can be Wrong

Borrower: "Have you a book about guinea pigs?"

Librarian: "Do you mean '100,000,000 Guinea Pigs'?"

Borrower: "Mercy, no! I want to raise them!"

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A Suggestion

Crown Heights has found that pasting Japanese paper over the leaves of the first section of an encyclopedia or dictionary prevents the leaves from curling up. This is work that the C.W.A. people can do in spare moments. The device is most effective if the pasting is done on both sides of the leaf. Miss Mudge, at Columbia, showed examples of this at her library recently.

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At Crown Heights a boy asked to have his card changed to a "travelling" card, so that he could use it at various Branches.

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Some New Synonyms

A girl of eight, or thereabouts, asked Miss Gwyn, at New Utrecht, for something on "synonyms." Upon being questioned further, it developed that what she wanted to say was "cinnamon," but she had got tangled up in her speech.

And at Bedfordthe assistant at the reference-desk was confronted with the following: "Will you let me have an epicure for a tombstone?" (Bedford's only book of epitaphs has been missing for some time---perhaps the "epicure" swallowed it.)

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Overheard in the children's room: "This book is so interesting that when your mother tells you to do something you don't hear her."

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It is seemingly impossible to surmount the obstacles of this depression. A borrower asked for "No Man Is Married." ("No Man Is Single" is the correct title.)

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"Goldie Locks" is a borrower at Brownsville. We're on the lookout for the Three Bears, and are carefully guarding the windows and chairs.

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Good Theatre!

Student: "May I have a book on 'Elizabeth Anne's' Theatre?"

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A young borrower with a card proudly showed a new friend around the children's room of one of the branches. As the two children were about to leave, the would-be new borrower pointed to the branch librarian. "Who's that?" "That's the mother of the library," was the naive reply.

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Miss A. Mabel Barrow (Brownsville) leaves January 1, to make her new home and start a rental-library in Vancouver. Her staff wishes her success in her new venture, and great happiness. Her sister, Miss Trotman Barrow, of Bedford, leaves with her.

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"May I have 'Essays of a Liar?'" ("Essays of Elia," of course.)

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The following note of appreciation was received at Kings Highway:

St. Brendan Diocesan High School

December 3, 1934

My dear Miss Schneidewind:

The Braille outfit which you so kindly lent us has been a source of great interest to our students. Our first-term pupils study the "Life of Helen Keller"; and in each of the six classes the Braille outfit was given special attention. All of our students examined it and think that they appreciate the use of sight just a little more. The Seniors were particularly impressed. I would judge that about 900 persons saw and examined the material.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kindness; and if there is anything I can do for you, I will be only too happy.

Sincerely yours

Sister M. Abigail

Librarian

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The incorporation of the month on the cover-design of AMONG OURSELVES is not feasible at present. We would suggest, therefore, that those Branches feeling a need for this try their hand at penning-in the name each month as artistically as possible.

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AMONG OURSELVES

B.P.L.
STAFF
ASS'N
1934
1935

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 13 January 1935

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association
in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Louis N. Feipel, Chairman (Ad)
Ada J. Cobb (M)
Winifred B. Jackson (S)
Adelaide A. Kennedy (F)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (kg)

-o-O-o-

FAREWELL TO ASTRAL

By Elsie M. Reed

It was with sincere regret that I said farewell to many of our borrowers and friendly neighbors. That it was necessary to make a change, owing to the reduced use of the branch and a decided decrease in circulation, was inevitable, I suppose; but I did feel sorry at depriving our public - a rather small group now, alas - of a local convenience which had been in existence for nearly forty-five years. Many of them felt very badly about it, a few expressed themselves in print, and the local press carried letters and even an editorial of "protest at the action of the City in closing the branch." However, the Greenpoint Branch is only a half-mile away from Astral, so the adult public, at any rate, will not suffer, and eventually they will become accustomed to using that well-equipped branch. Miss Foley and her staff will, I feel sure, give the Astral borrowers a warm welcome and serve their needs fully as well as we were able to do with our limited resources and poorly equipped quarters.

The Astral public has always shown considerable interest in and affection for its homelike small library. Opened originally as a branch of the Pratt Institute Library in 1890, it became a part of the Brooklyn Public Library system in 1901. Its first branch librarian, Miss Eliza Witham, endeared herself to the entire community, which she so ably served, first at Astral, and afterward at the Greenpoint Branch. She was followed later by Miss Hilda W. Green, who continued the good work, and then by Miss J. Grace Merry, my immediate predecessor, who had charge of the Astral Branch for the ten years just prior to my advent in January 1929.

Miss Merry, who has since passed away, did splendid work in the district, and that too under adverse conditions, seriously affecting the work of the branch, namely "cramped, crowded, dingy quarters and a small staff, not adequate to cover both the routine work and a properly satisfactory service to the public," to quote from one of her annual reports. In spite of all this, with the loyal support of her staff she won the esteem of her public. Thus it was a tradition, at Astral, that the library staff be on the friendliest of terms with those they served. It was their pride and aim not only to render an efficient service, but also to maintain pleasant personal relations with the public at large; so that,

when I arrived at Astral six years ago, I found an exceedingly pleasant library atmosphere and a very friendly public, appreciative of anything done in their behalf. Therefore it was up to me to hold that interest and to continue to maintain such friendly relations with the public, an important and essential part of our library work. This being the case, I feel that if we have accomplished anything worthwhile during these past years, it is largely owing to the fact that those preceding us paved the way, by their service, material and spiritual, in the cause of education. They bequeathed to us a fertile field and a wonderful opportunity for service to the community, which called for one's best effort. As to our share in carrying on this obligation to the public, I feel very humble indeed, considering those who, before us, established the standard.

On Thursday, December 20, we started moving the library; and the job was nearly finished on Saturday. Only the stacks remained to be taken on Monday, and by Wednesday, December 26, the moving was completed. The Astral Branch had ceased to exist, it had joined the things of the past and will live only in the memories of the people of the district, where it had been a part of the life of the community for nearly 45 years. Right here I should like to express our thanks and appreciation for the co-operation and support of the Chief Librarian and Administration Headquarters, and also the assistance we received at this rather strenous time. We wish especially to thank those branch librarians who lent us help for those three days, including Miss Foley, our neighbor in Greenpoint, who so promptly came to our rescue on that first hectic day of the break-up with the loan of her two C.W.S. men workers, whose splendid work lightened our own labors considerably and made possible our somewhat hasty exit.

This closing-up of a branch, saying goodbye to old friends and expressing our regrets at leaving, is rather upsetting emotionally, and I have been thankful to have a breathing-spell before taking up the work of preparing to open the new branch. So with a tear in our eye, we have said farewll to Astral, our old friends and district, and we look forward with eager interest to our work in the Mapleton section, with every expectation of enjoying that work and making pleasant contacts in the new field.

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The closing of Astral Branch removes one more of the old-time associations connected with the history of the district. The Astral, or Greenpoint, Settlement with which Astral was closely identified at the start, was organized by the neighborhood-association of Pratt Institute. It was located in the model tenements known as the Astral Apartments, which had been erected in 1889 by the Pratts on the corner of Franklin and India Streets, in Greenpoint. This settlement was instrumental in securing the first public playground in Brooklyn. Most of the club- and class-work of the settlement was carried on by students from Pratt Institute. The name "Astral" was derived from "Pratt's Astral Oil," which was known at the time as the safest and the best of kerosenes. It is said that a traveller in the Holy Land, some years ago, visiting a synagogue in Jerusalem, observed that the lamp which was kept burning perpetually in that sacred place was filled from a five-gallon container labelled "Pratt's Astral Oil." --- Editor

CONTEST

The Brooklyn Public Library Staff Association offers a prize of $5.00 for the best cover design for Among Ourselves for 1935-1936.

As mass effects cannot be reproduced by a mimeograph machine, all designs must be in line only, suitable for tracing with a stylus on mimeograph stencil paper, and must be worked within a rectangular space of 7 x 9 5/8 inches.

Entries close on May 1, 1935.

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The Children's Librarians' Meeting, January 10, 1935

This being a guest meeting, with the speaker, Miss Fjeril Hess, due to arrive at 10:30, the preliminary business session ended at 10:15. During the interval of fifteen minutes Miss Hess and Dr. Ferguson arrived.

Dr. Ferguson introduced the speaker, whom he had known in California. Miss Hess gave us a perfectly delightful time, singing to us some lovely old folk-songs from Central Europe and telling with vivacious humor about her many experiences. Her three books, Buckaroo, The Mounted Falcon, and Sandra's Cellar, have each grown out of her own true past, and she likes to call them "job books" because they are about girls at work. We were skipped about from Nevada ranch school-teaching to Pittsburgh social work in foreign back-alleys, from Czechoslovakia to bookselling in California and teaching in library school. Miss Hess gave us a memorable impression of a many-sided personality that imparts enthusiasm and meaning to every new job. Her visit, lasting through luncheon at the Girls' Industrial High School, was unusually enjoyed by our staff.

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MIDWOOD'S NEW QUARTERS

On January second Midwood opened in its new quarters, a large L-shaped or rather "⅂" shaped layout, with entrances on Avenue J and on East 12th Street, the latter the main door to the Library proper. Borrowers who enter the large room exclaim with pleasure as they notice the great improvement in size and appearance over the former location. But THEY see only a small part of the whole.

Privileged guests--such as you--are led through a partition, and another wing almost as large as the first is disclosed. Gasps of amazement, then a warning from the Md guide that still more is to come, and the by-this-time completely flabbergasted guest is led up and then down two steps, and an additional five-room apartment is spread out before his bewildered gaze. Yes, we mean "apartment," including a bathtub and shower.

A real children's room, bright and sunny, and a children's librarian to take care of the poor children whom the staff have never had time to care for, are among the nicest improvements. On the first day, 2,039 books were circulated; but the neighborhood has calmed down, and things are normal again. Come and see us.

OUR VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL WORKERS

Library Extension gratefully acknowledges the help given in the Hospital Library work by the following branch representatives:

In 1934

Miss Margaret Wood, of Fort Hamilton, at Norwegian Hospital.
Mrs. Eleanore Clift, of Bay Ridge, and Mrs. Tonette Johnson, of Eastern Parkway, who worked at Norwegian Hospital during Miss Wood's vacation.
Mrs. Florence Winner, of Greenpoint, at Greenpoint Hospital,
Miss Dorothy Leland, of Bay Ridge, at Greenpoint Hospital.

In 1935

Miss Margaret Wood is continuing at Norwegian Hospital.
Miss Julia Holzapfel, of Leonard, has taken over the work at Greenpoint Hospital.

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Good News for the Dentists

It required exactly two hundred and eighty pounds of Huyler's chocolates to fill the sweet-tooth of the Staff. Fifty-six 5-pound boxes were purchased between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

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On Thursday, December 20, the Macon Staff "threw" a Christmas party. The verb is well-chosen, as during the course of the evening the Staff amused its guests by presenting "Wild Nell, the Pet of the Plains; or Her Final Sacrifice," which entailed much throwing of people on horses and of Indians by The Hero. Those present also played games and enjoyed their talk over the coffee and cake.

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Brownsville entertained Miss Mabel and Miss Trotman Barrow at a theatre and dinner party on December 29th. The play chosen was "The Farmer Takes a Wife." A special table was reserved at Zucca's for the fifteen in the group. Mr. Veres and Mr. Akramoff accompanied their wives. Also present at the dinner were Miss Blanche Urquhart and Miss Viola C. White, formerly of the Brownsville staff. An enjoyable time was spent, and farewells were merry but wistful.

The Misses Barrow are now in Vancouver.

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During January, Brownsville Branch has been open from 1 to 6 P.M. on Saturdays.

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The Library recently purchased for the Central Library Collection, at a bargain, a copy of the valuable "West-European Incunabula," being 60 original leaves from the presses of the Netherlands, France, Iberia, and Great Britain, described by Konrad Haebler. The work was published at Munich, in 1928. The leaves are mounted to display both sides, and are contained in a canvas portfolio measuring twenty-one and a quarter inches in height. The purchase was made from the Bell Fund.

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The Queens Borough Public Library has an internal house-organ similar to "Among Ourselves," which it exchanges with us. It is kept on file in Room 1806, at Administration Headquarters, where it can be consulted by anyone interested.

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The funniest picture seen at City Park during the past month was that presented by a small girl, with a guilty conscience, disguising herself by wearing her brother's eye-glasses low down on her little nose, in order to escape detection when sliding past "the old man" (her words, not ours), our janitor, at the front-door.

-o-O-o-

Child: "Librarian, may I have Van de Lion?"
Librarian: "Van de Lion? Do you know anything about the story?"
Child: "Yes, it's about a lady who lost her husband and went hunting all over for him."
The Librarian procured "Evangeline," and the child went off.

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Child (calling across the children's room in a loud voice): "Alice!! Alice!!"
Librarian: "Miriam, don't you realize that you are in the library?"
Child: "Yes, ma'am."
Librarian: "Then why did you call Alice as loudly as you could?"
Child: (effusively): "Oh, but I didn't! I can yell a lot louder than that."

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An exhibit of textile-design, fashion-design, and costume and design for the theatre, furnished by the Traphagen School of Design, is now on display at the Williamsburgh Branch, continuing until February 15th.

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Mr. Feipel has been appointed a member of the joint committee of the American Library Association and the Book Manufacturers' Institute to encourage and, if possible, insure the widespread acceptance and adoption by libraries and binders of the specifications for library-binding adopted by the A.L.A. Council on June 30, 1934, and to facilitate discussion and solution of problems of common interest to binders and libraries.

City Park, although showing a loss in circulation for 1934, feels that it has made some very firm friends, among them being the families of Rear Admiral Stirling and Commander Ware, of the Navy Yard, and also Mr. Morehead, the warden of the City Prison. All of them are constant borrowers at the Branch. City Park has to compete with three public playgrounds in its immediate vicinity, besides which, during the past year, the nearby school-grounds have been opened for recreational purposes when school was not in session. All of the playgrounds have trained social assistants in charge; therefore it is no hardship for a child owing a small fine at the library to wait six months for its expiration. He (or she) simply transfers his affections to the playground for the period, and sometimes forgets the library entirely.

There has been considerable discussion in the daily papers, of late, concerning the City Park neighborhood. The City Park district has been designated as "The Jungle." Some few buildings have been demolished; but many more should be, and decent modern apartment-houses reared in their stead. Then City Park might perhaps come into its own. The neighborhood is at present mainly populated by Gypsies, Italians, and Negroes---all of the poorer class; and while they are interesting from a social standpoint, they all have a low reading-ability (many entirely illiterate), and those who have a taste for reading like something exciting, such as mystery-stories and Westerns. A typical case is that of a small girl, who upon being sent from the adult stacks to the children's room, said: "Oh, I don't want one of the books in there! I can't get any kick out of them."

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The staff at New Utrecht decided they would not let Christmas pass without a tree and some Christmas decorations; so each member contributed something to that end. Also, one of the staff-members gave a very successful Christmas surprise-party.

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On Friday, December 21st, the Flatbush staff had a party to celebrate the coming holiday and to bid farewell to Lucille Vander Voort, now a member of the Bedford staff. Several varieties of Norwegian Christmas cookies, made by Karen Ovestad, furnished an exciting spot in the menu; and a ten-cent grab-bag to which all contributed added to the fun.

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Rumors--only rumors--have reached us of various other Christmas parties at the Branches. HOW ABOUT IT, STAFF REPRESENTATIVES?

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Miss Sarah A. Beard (Bji) has been appointed a member of the Book Appraisal Committee, School Libraries Section of the A.L.A.

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Books I Like — Louis M. Nourse (Ad)

St.-Exupery	Night flight
Brooks	Emerson
Jeffers	Thurso's Landing
Hulbert	Forty-niners
Cather	Death comes for the Archbishop
Clifton	Book of Talbot
Hilton	Ill wind

Little books I have liked — Helen R. Burdett (Ma)

Ashton	Will Shakespeare
Barrie	Margaret Ogilvie
Dickinson	Modern symposium
Hemon	Marie Chapdelaine
Hilton	Good-bye, Mr. Chips
Hopkins	The Clammer
Housman	Shropshire lad
Kakuzo	Book of tea

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Trustee Mrs. William P. Earle, Jr., has been appointed by Mayor La Guardia a member of a new Charter Revision Commission of nine.

Over the Desk at Greenpoint

A borrower asked to have a lettering-book renewed a second time. The assistant at the desk refused the renewal, but offered to find him other books on the same subject. Upon being handed three books from the office, he replied in a much-surprised tone: "Why, these are better than the one I had. I'll take the three. THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE."

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CHANGES IN THE STAFF

Katherine C. Gallivan, Department of Library Extension, resigned on January 19th, to acdept a position with the Providence (R. I.) Public Library.

Effective February 1, 1935, Alice M. Tuthill is being promoted to the position of Branch Librarian of the Brownsville Branch. The vacancy she leaves at Kings Highway is being filled by the transfer of Edith Schwegler from Red Hook. Helen M. Mills is being promoted from Sheepshead Bay to the second grade vacancy at the Department of Library Extension, while Eleanor V. Davidson from the New York State Teacher's College, is being appointed to the first grade vacancy at Sheepshead Bay.

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At Brownsville Children's Branch, during the past year, what with less cataloguing, binding, and discarding in consequence of few accessions, the staff concentrated its efforts upon exhibits and decoration, club-work, story-hours, and marionette-shows, thus substituting entertainment via eyes and ears for books which did not exist. In producing marionette-shows, it was decided to change from the larger permanent stage to a smaller portable one, and from puppets on strings to hand-puppets. Mrs. De Gogorza reports as follows: "The janitor, always a successful carpenter, outdid himself by making both the stage (including its electrical fittings) and a box to transport the properties. Just when we were prepared to give a performance, one of the cast was transferred to another Branch. When we recover from vacancies, transfers, and a sick-leave, we hope to produce a play which, with the aid of the portable stage, will permit us to repeat it at some other Branch, should anyone care to have us do so. Late last year we had requests to bring the puppets to two of the Branches, when ready."

Other interesting bits from the Bj annual report are: A branch-librarian and a children's librarian from Hackensack, N. J., visited the Intermediate, one of them for background in leading a discussion on library-work with intermediates at a County Library Association. The editor of Reading and the School Library, a new periodical published in Chicago, has asked for an article on work with adolescents, whenever there is time to send one. Eveleth, Minn., Dearborn, Mich., and Buffalo, N. Y., have written to find out about club-work. Two librarians from the New York Public Library visited the Intermediate, one of them (the Superintendent of Work with Schools) attending a club-meeting. Miss Beard gave a talk at a Presbyterian Women's Club, on "Young People and Books."

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Miss Wood, at Fort Hamilton, voices the prevailing sentiment that "the bad habit of reporting losses in circulation will probably grow on us as long as the book-collection continues to decrease in size and desirability." The 1934 loss at Fort Hamilton was 17,007 volumes; in 1933 it was 31,529. However, says Miss Wood, "the issuing of 155,923 volumes for the year 1934 was nearer the normal for a staff of four assistants and a book-collection of 15,000 volumes, than the frenzied circulating of 204,459 books two years ago."

Fort Hamilton sounds a dissentient note as to the one-o'clock closing on Saturdays. "Our library-public are good growlers, but poor kickers. Saturdays were formerly rivals of Mondays in activity; and so we should have known, even without the growls, that the early closing was a deprivation for the readers. We have always had a friendly public; but some of them began to doubt us, and in spite of the clearly-worded formal notice of the reasons for the shortening of library hours, considered the Saturday closing all in the staff's favor---a sort of belated N.R.A. arrangement. Several persons spoke of writing in protest to the Chief Librarian, until the fact was borne in upon them that the closing was a last resort of the Library."

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AMONG OURSELVES

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A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

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-o-O-o-

BRANCH ACTIVITIES DURING 1934

(Continued)

Here are some human-interest items culled from Flatbush's annual report.

A man engaged in remodelling a restaurant planned to have part of it carry out the idea of a cave. His wife came to the library to get some pictures to help him in his project. In the National Geographic Magazine Miss Lennon was able to find several good views of Carlsbad Cavern.

One borrower is frequently in the library getting books on lettering and other art-material for her husband. It seems the couple came at a week's notice from California to New York, where the husband had been offered an attractive position in the commercial-art field. Since Art had up to this time been merely a hobby of his, and he had had little schooling in the subject, he was anxious to make up for this lack of instruction by studying library-books. Now he is doing very well and seems likely to be very successful in his new field.

On one occasion Flatbush had a request, from a woman borrower who makes wall-hangings, for a Chinese picture which could be copied or adapted for a hanging for a Chinese room. She was given two pictures and also the illustrator-collection copy of "Chinese Fairy Tales." She stated that she had been all over New York, to all of the department-stores, and had been unable to find anything there.

Another borrower wanted a picture of the New York waterfront of 1900, in order to make a wall-hanging for a New Year's party. The desired picture was found in "Valentine's Manual."

An interesting event of the past year at Flatbush was the formation of a youth-guidance group under the Board of Superintendents, Department of Education, to develop the program of character-building and community-organization started in Public School 181, with Dr. Nathan Peyser, Principal (he being also a member of the Governor's commission on correctional education), as leader of the Flatbush group. Miss Donaghy reports: "The Branch Librarian attended their first meeting and heard the leaders of the different groups speak and pledge their support to the movement; and as they were outstanding members of the community and seemed very much in earnest, it

inspired one with hope for the future and courage for the present. One is glad to know that there is such an organization one can call upon in time of need."

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Among the high-lights of branch reference-work at Bedford, which is quite heavy during the winter months, Miss Roghe mentions the procuring of a State pension for an old lady, and the helping of a clergyman to obtain his Ph.D. degree by getting pamphlets for him from Sweden and Denmark for his dissertation (on Grundtvig, the Danish pioneer of folk-schools).

At Bedford, too, besides providing accomodations for classes in English for foreigners, conducted by an instructor under C.W.S. auspices, aid was furnished the Joint Committee on Education in an extensive survey of educational opportunities for adults in Brooklyn. A detailed subject-list of conditions in the Bedford neighborhood was submitted to the Committee. Alphabetized subject-lists of free courses offered by the New York State Department of Education at various schools and centers in New York and Brooklyn were posted prominently, and have been consulted constantly. In one case, a sea-captain, while waiting for an assignment to a vessel, found a free course in photography so helpful that he is now hopeful of financial gain from the course.

A new marionette-play is in preparation by the Bedford staff. This undertaking is designed to interest the children in the better type of book, and to foster the reading-habit.

At Bedford, new anthologies of poetry are indexed and the entries added to Granger. A subject-index to plays, for quick reference, is being compiled by two members of the staff. Another assistant is working on an occupational index of borrowers, as listed in the application-file. They are now in the "P's," and, numerically speaking, the palm so far goies to the "Unemployed," students and teachers, housewives, stenographers, and clerks, although authors, lawyers, and physicians are not lacking.

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Miss Lynch, at Leonard, deplores the lack of recreational facilities for boys and young men of the Leonard section. Miss Lynch writes: "Boys' Welcome Hall, at 185 Chauncey Street, was organized years ago for just such a purpose. It has a gymnasium, a game-room, and a man for director. The only community-house in our neighborhood---and not in our immediate vicinity---is run (to use the boys' expression) 'by a lot of old maids who won't let a fellow make any noise,'---a description they probably apply also to the library-staff. As nice distinctions are beyond the young, we cannot be too surprised that they think the library as good a place as any to meet the 'gang' and have a rousing good-time.

"In this connection, the total lack of co-operation among civic institutions in New York City is appalling. The churches and schools refused the use of their social halls and gymnasiums to the Crime Prevention Bureau because of janitorial expenses. Neighborhood social and athletic groups have used the Leonard auditorium, and in most instances have abused the privilege, because of lack of organ-

ization or an experienced leader. A trained welfare-worker, of the type to appeal to boys of this neighborhood, would do much toward improving the situation and toward removing the non-readers from the the library."

On the head of reference-work with high-school students, Miss Lynch has this to say: "At Leonard we do not delude ourselves with the erroneous belief that this work is unimportant. To question the amount of library-time or effort applied to a young man's search for information is certainly in opposition to the highest ideals of library service!-----Our attitude toward young people and their problems will largely determine their attitude toward the Library in the future. Discussions as to the relative responsibility of high-school library and public library in this matter of student-reference are irrelevant. We cannot make conditions---we have to meet them!"

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JUNIOR MEMBERS DISTRICT MEETING

A group of the younger New York City librarians, representing the Junior Members Section of the New York Library Association, held a meeting at the Co-operative Cafeteria, 49 East 25th Street, Manhattan, Thursday evening, February 7th. Judging from the hum of conversation heard during the dinner hour, members of the group did not lose any time getting acquainted.

After dinner, Kingsley B. Leeds, New York University Library, Chairman of the City District, presided over the business and discussion. Louis M. Nourse, Brooklyn Public Library, Chairman of the A. L. A. Junior Members Round Table, gave a brief talk on the history and purpose of the organization; also its present program of activities and future plans. Charles Gosnell, N.Y.P.L. Reference Department, introduced the Code for Librarians prepared by the Executive Committee of the state J. M. Section last year and published in the Library Journal (June 1, 1934). There was considerable discussion of some provisions of the code.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m., with the announcement that another meeting was planned for April.

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COVER-DESIGN CONTEST

Don't forget our Cover-Design Contest. Entries close May 1st. Designs must be in line, suitable for reproduction on the mimeograph. Mass effects are unusable for this purpose. The design must be worked out in a rectangular space measuring 7 x 9-5/8 inches. Prize-award, $5.

-o-O-o-

On Tuesday afternoon, January 29th, students from the Syracuse University Library School paid a visit to Brownsville Children's Branch. The students were escorted by Mrs. Wharton Miller. As always, the visitors were much impressed with the beauty and distinction of this library.

THE MOST RECENT ADDITION TO THE B. P. L. FAMILY

By Florence A. Platner

On Monday, February 4, at four o'clock, Mapleton Branch was opened formally to the public by Dr. Ferguson and other library and city officials, and given over to the charge of Elsie M. Reed, branch librarian. Through the efforts of our friend, Mr. Martin, a chilly, gloomy market was transformed into a bright, cheery library. One of its brightest spots is the children's room, occupying one side of the library, now in charge of Mrs. Hiller, our new children's librarian. In the rear are five sunny rooms, plus two baths (at present without showers). We have hopes, however, of reaching Midwood's class.

Dr. Ferguson opened the ceremonies, commenting on the appearance of the library, and expressing the hope that some day a library building would be erected in the neighborhood to serve the public properly. Although the Borough President was absent, the city was represented by his secretary, Lawson H. Brown, who spoke very highly of the work of the libraries of the city. An unusual feature of the afternoon was the reading of a prize essay on "What the New Library Means to Me," by its author, Morris Rosenberg, eleven years old. Morris also has the distinction of possessing Mapleton's first juvenile card, "Mp 01," and had his photograph in the daily paper, posed with the Chief Librarian.

Refreshments were served in the new staff-room and kitchen to the visitors of the neighborhood as well as to city and library officials. Visiting branch librarians acted as hostesses, assisted by other members of the B.P.L. staff, since the Mapleton staff was already trying to handle the long lines anxiously waiting to register. Two hundred and seventy-three persons registered the first day, and two hundred and seventy-two books were circulated.

The lines continue to form as Mapleton closes its second week of business, and we prophesy busy days ahead with both juvenile and adult public, mainly Italian and Jewish. Thus far cards have been issued to 405 juvenile borrowers and 524 adults.

The Mapleton staff are very happy in their new quarters and will be glad to receive visitors. Come and see us.

-o-O-o-

After several years at Leonard, Miss Harvey was transferred to Eastern Parkway in January. On the Tuesday before her departure Miss Harvey had a turkey lunch and supper for the staff, with a "request program" which included everyone's favorite dish. There were also some delicious candies for the C.W.A. workers. The following day the staff entertained Miss Harvey at an afternoon party, at which they presented her with an evening-bag, as an appropriate accessory for the grand tour she plans to take this spring.

All Hail to Montague!

Little girl (at Tompkins Park Branch): "Teacher, my father wants to know if the Mountain View Branch will be open tomorrow?"

The following is a copy of a poem which has been buried in the Leonard files for 20 years, and except for the "blue-serge-covered knee" is as appropriate today as then. The poem was composed by Nina Lowenstein.

Remember, O remember, the branch where you did toil
To circulate the books of Scott
As well as Conan Doyle,
And to settle weighty matter with the wisdom of the ssers,--
Did Henry write the "Iliad"?
Did Benny swipe the shears?

Remember, O remember, that children's room at morn,
And how with fearful anguish
Your gentle heart was torn.
Books piled on the tables, that should be on the shelf,
Red J's where the black should be,
Till you "see red" yourself.

Remember, O remember, that room at half-past three,
The little angels flocking round
Your blue-serge-covered knee.
How children coming home from school
Rushed in the open door,
And shrieked, and screamed, and threw the books
Upon our rubber floor.

Remember, O remember, that workroom dear to all,
Which was transformed at five o'clock
Into a banquet-hall.
The sink beneath the window,
Where for many many moons,
You daily washed your finger-tips, and knives, and forks, and spoons.

Chorus

Remember, O remember, wherever you may go,
That lowly red-brick building,
At Leonard and Devoe.

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"And things are not what they seem"

The gentleman had followed the pleasant-looking staff-member into the office and asked for a classic which he rather obviously thought not quite fit for him to read. It was not in that branch's collection and the librarian explained amiably that if he wished to pay the two-cent fee it could probably be borrowed for him from another branch. He could put in his request at the main circulating-desk. The gentleman glanced nervously over his shoulder in the direction indicated, then suggested diffidently: "Well---couldn't you take it please. They all look so respectable out there."

-o-O-o-

Five boys, about the age of ten, were so mischievous that it was necessary to ask them to leave the children's room. Upon reaching the street one boy came back into the vestibule and serenaded the librarian with, "Stay as sweet as you are!"

Sheepshead Bay regrets the transfer of Helen Mills to Library Extension, and the shutting-off of one-fourth the library floor-space. These two major calamities in one month require explanations.

Miss Mills's promotion adds much to her glory and responsibility, but to the staff at Sheepshead it means a break in associations that both staff and borrowers will find hard to get used to. Miss Eleanor Davidson has come to take Miss Mills's place.

Reduction of the budget made it necessary to curtail the rental, and one store, equal to one-fourth the entire floor-space, has been shut off. It has resulted in a crowding of books and borrowers, but also in improved supervision, and, it is hoped, less mutilation of books.

Sheepshead further reports a combination Christmas party and surprise birthday-party for Ruth Lamson on December 21st, with a real tree, presents, a lovely birthday-cake with candles, and, best of all, a tea-party.

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Miss Ruth Everett, of DeKalb, resigned January 31st to accept a position at Girls' Commercial High School.

Miss Bonnie Elliott was appointed on the DeKalb staff on February 1st. Miss Elliott was formerly in the Glen Ridge Library.

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Effective February 1, 1935, Caroline Caswell was transferred to Red Hook to become Branch Librarian. The vacancy she left at Eastern Parkway was filled by the promotion of Marjorie S. Ladd from Midwood, while the vacancy Mrs. Ladd's promotion created is being filled by the promotion of Martha Oderman from the First Grade to the Second Grade. Miss Thelma Burdg was appointed to fill the first grade vacancy at Midwood, and Miss Esther Levy was appointed as Library Assistant, Grade 1, at the Saratoga Branch.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Kohlmeier announce the birth of a son on February 6th at the Brooklyn Hospital. Mrs. Kohlmeier was formerly Naomi Fleagle, of DeKalb.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Koch announce the birth of a son on February 4th at Reading, Penn. Mrs. Koch is a member of the Macon staff.

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Some of the children at Kings County Hospital and the House of St Giles are stamp-collectors. If anyone on the staff is willing to donate some stamps, they will be very much appreciated, both by the children and by the librarians. Send any stamps to D. M. Leigh at Library Extension.

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Miss Wood, at Fort Hamilton, speaking of Central Registration, has this to say: "Life at the registration-desk is pleasant since the Chief Librarian suggested that we use our discretion in issuing a book to registrants who expressed a special desire or need. We did so, and with such amicable results that we decided to take the initiative and ask the borrower whether he wished to take out a book immediately. Almost invariably the answer has been an eager Yes. We now have fewer uncalled-for new cards to file away. The children wait their week without books. It will be remembered that, when Central Registration was first introduced at a Branch Librarians' meeting, the permitting of one book to a new adult borrower was suggested as part of the method of procedure, but was vehemently voted down through fear of added clerical work. Now that Central Registration has become second-nature to us, we wonder at our former fears."

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At Greenpoint, the English classes for Polish-American women were held throughout 1934, as in former years. The Greenpoint auditorium was also used for rehearsals by the Dramatic Department of the Department of Public Welfare.

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Borrower: I want something about Noah's Ark.
Librarian: I'll get you the Bible.
Borrower: Oh, no; I want a better account than that!

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During the cross word puzzle craze, one of Brownsville's assistants was asked for the "unbiased version" of the dictionary.

-o-O-o-

Trials of a Library Cook

Potatoes and ham-and-asparagus rolls were baking serenely in honor of Brownsville's new branch librarian. Suddenly a sound like the crack of doom startled the cook. The oven-door had fallen off! Aid was mustered from the staff to take turns holding the oven-door on until one of the CWS workers appeared with a screw-driver and a cool head to repair the damage. Burned fingers and a heartfelt sigh of relief (from the cook) were his well-earned reward.

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A postcard sent out from a branch to Pan Adler was inadvertently or absentmindedly addressed to Pan Handler. It was returned "unknown at address"!

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A request for a recipe for "hen soap" mystified the librarian at the reference desk until she realized it was meant to be "hand" soap.

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At Bushwick, the only Class to show a gain in circulation during 1934 was Useful Arts. This is interesting, as many of the adult borrowers at that Branch are workers in the manual and mechanic trades

Several of the adult classes in the evening school at P.S. 147 visited Bushwick, in company with the Principal. During July and August, classes in English, Americanization, and psychology, under the New York State Education Department, were held at the Branch, the teachers themselves being among the unemployed.

During the past year, more foreign nationalities than ever have resorted to Bushwick. There are several families of Ukrainian Mohammedans; also a West African of the Jewish faith, who is a cantor in a Jewish temple and claims that he speaks 52 dialects; and a new visitor, one Hassin-Ab-El-Hamiel ("Mr. Turner, El-," to you), who is a Mecca consul and declares he is here in the diplomatic service, in the interests of the Moorish people. The groups of Gypsies, who come to Bushwick during the winter, provide some men visitors who come to the library from time to time, but, curiously enough, only to read of their own history and people. The gypsy-women do not come to the library at all, and the children only rarely. The other nationalities in the Bushwick section are Hebrews, Italians, Lithuanians, Hungarians, Germans, and Negroes. All of them live in close proximity and seemingly on friendly terms.

The posters for the children's room exhibit during Book Week at Bushwick were drawn by one of the Bushwick boys, aged twelve, who is an art-student at Pratt and who used the library's books as his inspiration for the drawings. Bushwick is proud of its "artists," as also of its "poets."

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He was going through the rules fairly accurately, and the still younger brother was being most impressed and interested in the ceremony - at least the eyes, which were all that showed above the edge of the desk, looked particularly large and alert. The inquiry had reached the question of what you would do on discovering the loss of your card or your book. Suddenly the small head alongside bobbed briefly into view and a high little voice piped, "Hunt for it!"

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Vitamins Via the Library

Little Warren's first greeting to the Librarian on his arrival at the picture-book hour was, "I drank up all my milk to come here today."

It seems Warren's mother has tried many devices to bribe or coax him through each meal. The picture-book day has helped her through one day's meals. Warren enjoys the time spent at the library so well that even the consuming of three glasses of milk for that day could not keep him home.

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AMONG OURSELVES

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A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 15 March 1935

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association
in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

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AT ATLANTIC CITY

By Ruth Ferguson

It was inevitable that, after being "among those present" at so many library conventions, I would some day attend, not as an outsider looking in, but as an integral part -- though a very small and unimportant one -- of the large number of individuals who make up our professional library group. So, when I discovered that I was to attend the annual Joint Meeting of the Pennsylvania Library Club and the New Jersey Library Association at Atlantic City on March 14-16th, I felt quite elated. In addition to the fact that it is still somewhat of a novelty to class myself with this professional group, my roving urge was likewise gratified -- for I was to see a place that I had never seen before, a place famous, as many huge bill-boards proclaimed, for being the Playground of the World. When I also read that the Steel Pier could offer me eighteen hours of continuous entertainment, my only worry was in trying mentally to salvage the necessary number of hours. Previous to this, I had not seen the very full program of the meeting, otherwise I would have known that the joys of the Steel Pier were to remain mysteries at least for this trip.

Officially, the convention opened on Thursday evening with a meeting of the New Jersey County Libraries Association, and, as you have no doubt anticipated me, it was a meeting devoted to the county library as it exists specifically in the counties of New Jersey.

As I was not permitted to go to the meeting of the American Library Institute on Friday afternoon (it was a closed meeting), I devoted an hour or so to research. No! not in the cloistered nook of a quiet library, but along the board-walk. While I am rather doubtful that my theoretical library knowledge received much stimulus from this excursion, I do believe that it added to my understanding of the human element that plays such an important part in the everyday life of a branch library assistant. For the whole world, even in March, appears to rub elbows, or at least to scrape rolling chairs, in that interesting parade. And so, returning about three o'clock, with a salty tang on my lips and an added zest to my feelings, I proceeded to the Viking Room, where the New Jersey Library Association was having a meeting. It turned out, unfortunately for me, to be a business meeting, in which the minutes of 1934 were read for correction and approval. I did not feel qualified to judge of these, and after an hour I retired to do more exploring.

That evening, Friday, there was a debate scheduled which promised to be interesting to anyone who enjoys hearing the pros and cons on a subject about which he (or, in this case, she) admits the greatest of ignorance. The subject was "Federal Aid for Libraries," a discussion of the A.L.A. Program, with Clarence B. Lester, Secretary of the State Free Library Commission of Wisconsin, speaking for the affirmative, and C. Seymour Thompson, the librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, telling the opposing story. Despite the fact that the loyal supporter of each side of the question refused to concede a single inch to his opponent, your candid reporter has to confess that she was unable to see the problem as being wholly white, or entirely black. The substance of the arguments resolved itself into a question of library independence without sufficient funds, or additional money with government control. The New Jersey Library delegates voted the A.L.A. proposition down. Dr. Frank Kingdon, President of Dana College, followed the debate with a plea for government aid, and was vigorously applauded by the assembly, although the sentiment previously had not indicated that this would happen.

On Saturday morning I again entered the Viking Room, and this time it was with the usual feeling of awe that the subject of finance seems to inspire in me; for we were to hear F. Cyril James of the Wharton School of Finance. But when I saw that he had entitled his talk "Cows, Gold, and Dollars," I felt better. As a matter of fact, Dr. James gave a clear and interesting tracing of the development of the monetary system throughout history; and I actually felt at the finish that I had learned something about that mysterious thing called currency. The cows, as it turned out, were given first place in the title because they were the first medium of exchange used by our remote ancestors.

The other speaker, Angus Fletcher, the Director of the British Library of Information in New York City, spoke with his usual ease on "Special Libraries for the Public Service." He visualized just the kind of service that the huge public library may, in the not too distant future, offer to its patrons. Instead of being shunted from one person to another in his quest of a particular subject, the library patron of a few years hence may be directed into a special wing of the building, where a librarian combining the qualifications of a learned specialist with the artificial, but essential book aids at his fingertips, will make the patron's research a joyful affair, instead of the annoying experience it too often may be at the present time. Mr. Fletcher was eloquent enough to convince a number of people I talked to of the plausibility of his dream of specialization for the large public library.

The afternoon session, devoted to the school library question, I skipped; and so I shall pass on to the last meeting, on Saturday evening, which was opened by Robert R. Lane, an editorial writer on the Newark Evening News and a former Washington correspondent. Mr. Lane gave us the reportorial slant on the policies and personalities of Coolidge, Hoover, and Roosevelt; and personalities about famous people are a source of great interest to most of us, especially when presented by as competent a commentator as Mr. Lane proved to be.

The evening was brought to a pleasant close by Theodore Koch, Librarian of Northwestern University, who enthusiastically told of some literary forgeries of the nineteenth century, with especial

reference to the now famous Reading edition of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese."

And so we find the Atlantic City Conference a thing of memory, but one which I shall long think of in the most favorable of terms.

P.S. The Steel Pier was closed for the winter, except for a few lively monkeys and a very bored sea elephant.

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STAFF ASSOCATION TEA

On Sunday, March the third, quite a number of us attended the Brooklyn Public Library Staff Association tea. For those of you who did not attend let us tell you what a very pleasant time everyone seemed to be having. The tea was held at the Hotel Bossert. We arrived a bit after four o'clock, met a lot of old friends and had a chance to chat.

About five o'clock we had the privilege of hearing Mr. Ralph Pearson, the artist. Mr. Pearson spoke of the importance of creative art in the life of the individual. He approves of modern art as giving you a greater scope and more opportunity for originality and inspiration.

Mr. Edward Corsi, former U. S. Commissioner of Immigration, was our second speaker. Mr. Corsi talked to us about his new book "In the Shadow of Liberty." The original purpose of the book was to give an account of the activities centered around Ellis Island but as Mr. Corsi said, "The book grew into a sort of auto-biography."

Tea or if you preferred, coffee, was served. We lingered over our sandwiches, cakes and tea. Some of us had a chance to meet Mr. Pearson and Mr. and Mrs. Corsi. The guests at the tea included: Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Miss Conway and Miss Cobb of New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Rogers of Queens.

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The Social Committee wishes to thank the members of the Staff Association for their enthusiastic acceptance for the tea on March the third.

The Chairman of the Social Committee received a very pleasant note from Miss Hitchler. In responding to the invitation for the Staff tea, Miss Hitchler sent a note regretting that she would not be able to attend the tea as she was just recovering from the "flu". She said it seemed a long time since she last saw us all.

-o-O-o-

The messenger who came into Irving to get some books for a nice old lady had evidently reinforced her memory of what was desired by writing a list. It read:

Kindred of the dust
Peter be kind
Etc.

MORE GLEANINGS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS

Bay Ridge, perturbed by the fact that its attractive children's room with its well-rounded collection was being less used during 1934, talked the matter over with parents, teachers, and club-workers. It seems that many of the Bay Ridge families live across three bad traffic-arteries---Third, Fourth, and Fifth Avenues. These avenues have become extremely dangerous; and the parents declare that, much as they regret it, they cannot permit their children to come freely to the library, and that there are now so many ways of keeping children busy, in schools and in churches, dramatic clubs, scout-troups, and so on.

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Negro readers are increasing at Macon. Their registration is about eighteen percent of the whole. In addition there are many readers who are not registered. If Macon only had study-rooms or an auditorium, it feels that there would be splendid room for constructive library-work in that Negro community.

Macon has also given a good deal of time and thought to the requests of vacation-school teachers and pupils during the summer. Miss Burdett believes that this is a growing field, where the Library can be of use. This year, Macon is going to try to get in touch with all the local church and public vacation-schools and their playgrounds before, or as soon as, the sessions begin, so as to be of as great service as possible. Miss Burdett found, last summer, that books had been lent for vacation to camp-leaders that would have been helpful to vacation-school directors and children, right here in the city. "Surely," says Miss Burdett, "the Library should exert itself during the summer months to help keep children happily occupied and off the hot city streets."

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The Kings Highway section is still growing steadily in population. Although the district has a sprinkling of Italians and Germans, the Jewish people still predominate in point of number. The district is also being constantly improved with a fine type of residences. Two new schools (P.S. 234, at East 17th Street and Avenue S, and the Lafayette High School, somewhere in South Flatbush) have been authorized. At Kings Highway the branch has become so congested, evenings, that adults have to occupy the children's side and sit at the juvenile tables. There is no room even to accommodate additions to the public card-catalogue.

The local James Madison and Abraham Lincoln High Schools are on a two-session schedule, necessitating the use of Kings Highway Branch for reference purposes by those students who are in the afternoon sessions. This means that reference-work and other activities at this Branch are in full swing shortly after 9 A.M., and continue so until closing-time.

For 1934, Kings Highway Branch ranks <u>fourth</u> in point of circulation.

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At Crown Heights a decided change in the character of the public has been noticed during the past year. More Hebrews use the Library; and the public generally is not of so prosperous a class as formerly.

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With respect to the detecting, removing, and safeguarding of old, rare, and otherwise valuable books, chiefly at Montague, a system of dead storage has been devised, whereby books of this sort are segregated from the Library's live collection, placed in storage, and so designated in the Union Catalogue and Shelflist by means of the symbol "RR." When the Central Building becomes a reality, these volumes will be resurrected, reclassified, and made available to the public again.

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Coney Island, long the shabbiest of all our rented library-quarters, has had its children's room improved by a painted canvas, the handiwork of Miss Littell. This canvas, eighteen feet long and two feet high, covers an unsightly space formerly used for pictures. The figures were copied from "Zuni Indian Tales," by Aileen Nusbaum. Ever since the canvas was first hung, the interest in Indian art, literature, and the like, has been especially noticeable. A passer-by, attracted by this canvas, offered to lend the Branch as much of his valuable Indian collection as the Branch could display. He brought squaw-costumes, moccasins, head-dresses, belts, gloves, leggings, bags, and other articles---all beautiful examples of bead-work done by the Sioux, Crow, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Comanche Indians.

The next project at Coney Island was to make a set of boxes for window-displays, patterned after the Hild Regional Library design shown in the A.L.A. Bulletin for October. The boxes are of different sizes and can be changed about, in order to provide a variety of effects. This feature of bringing books to the attention of passers-by has received many favorable comments. Another weekly attraction has been the illuminated habitats lent by the American Museum of Natural History.

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Miss Hart, at Pacific, notes the fact that the increased charge for D.P.C. books has reduced the number of books circulated by nearly twenty-three percent, but has increased the total receipts by about seventy-six percent, thus making it possible to order new titles liberally and to transfer books more promptly to the free shelves.

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Miss Olcott, at Prospect, has established the fact that practically half of her circulation decrease for 1934 can be laid at the door of Saturday-afternoon closing. The Saturday circulation during the school-year months in 1933 was 34,912 volumes, while that for the corresponding period in 1934, with the library open for the most part only a half-day, was 20,076. This decrease of 14,836 volumes is more than half the total decrease, which was 28,677 for the year.

Williamsburgh is finding greater satisfaction than ever in its Gaylord charging-machines. Miss Brown reports: "Every now and then some improvements are made in them, so that the need to return them to the factory for repairs grows less and less. Once it was a weekly occurrence: now several months elapse before the necessity arises. We find them a great aid in accuracy and in lessening the nerve-strain during long periods of charging books."

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The following communication was received at the-------Branch.

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir:-

Just received your card for the overdue Book "Tranol - Broad Highway" which I took out Oct. 28th & returned Nov. 9 then I took out the two "No 3 & 4" De Miserales by Hugo. I returned it Nov. 9 cause if I didn't how could I take out other books when I don't return the ones I have without renewing I remember well I returned it & when to the shelf for it cause I had forgotten to hold it for me & I didn't want to bother about it cause I know there were two Books alike and if it were not on the shelf I would have gone out without it & if you look into the matter again I'm sure you will find the error. On my card is three Oct. 28 then two Nov. 9th the day I returned it & three Nov. 12 I now have "Heir of Buch. by Teval & Lassez (I think that was the one I returned with Broad Highway & when I took it out Nov. 12 I had forgotten I read it. I also have "Notre Dame by Hugo & the Woman in White by Collins. If I didn't return it how could I have them out more. I always return them myself & watch the clerk stamp them my card is correct & I'm sure you will find your error when I finish my books if I do'nt hear from if I will try & explain I returned it Nov. 9th. Hoping yo'ull look into the matter & straighten this out and please let me know as I'm to go away Monday & if have someone return my books by then. Trusting you will find the error.

Yurs respectfully

(Mrs.) Pasty Palumbo

A prize was offered at the----------branch to anyone on the staff who would look into the matter and straighten it out. No one claimed the prize however. After some correspondence Mrs. Palumbo herself furnished the following solution to the mystery:

Dear Miss----------:-

Gee I'm so sorry but I hope you will pardon me but a few weeks ago I gave Mother some old Books of mine & yesterday when we went to see her (in Tutterville, N. J.) she told me I had given her my liberty book by mistake & I sure am sorry. I knew it wasn't here for I looked

everywhere & I think I owe you (68¢) sixty eight cents & I'm very very sorry & I hope you will excuse my horred error & thank you for all your trouble.

I guess I may have my card? May I? & if so please give to little Helen.

Thanking you once more.

Yours respectfully

Patsy Palumbo

-o-O-o-

Mayor LaGuardia has appointed Robert E. Blum of 106 Willow Street, Brooklyn, to the board of trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library for a term of five years, to succeed Mr. Cashman.

-o-O-o-

Coney Island has an exhibit of unusually attractive photographs depicting the Island and its surroundings. The scenes range from a lovely view of the beach at sunset to the gaudy brilliancy of Luna Park at midnight. The photographs were taken and mounted by one of the borrowers.

-o-O-o-

Miss Streight of Coney Island sails June 1 on the Britannic for a two months' tour, spending most of the time in rural England and Scotland, with a peep at Holland, Belgium, and France before returning.

-o-O-o-

Mother, addressing her young son: "Is this the librarian who waited on you?

Boy, looking at the young assistant behind the desk: "It wasn't her, it was a lady."

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Miss Gwyn claims the honor of being the first Brooklyn Public Library staff-member to undergo volunteer fingerprinting under police-department auspices.

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The emergency relief-workers now employed in various branches of the system are no longer known as C.W.A. or C.W.S. workers, but as emergency-employes. They are provided by the Emergency Relief Bureau of the City of New York, Works Division, which is carrying on the project originally instituted by the C.W.A. (Civil Works Administration). The number so employed is now 181, out of a total quota of 279.

-o-O-o-

An exhibition on "Theatre Arts" is being held at the Williamsburgh Branch until April 15th. Small stage-sets made by the staff are one display. Photographs of Katherine Cornell, Walter Hampden, Ina Claire, George M. Cohan, Helen Hayes, Lynne Fontanne, Leslie Howard, and others, are to be seen. The Williamsburgh public has become actively interested and has supplemented the exhibit with a model stage, photographs of the Y.M.H.A. and Y.W.H.A. players of Williamsburgh, small cardboard stage-sets of their plays, and photographs of the Morningside Players at Columbia University.

-o-O-o-

A written request for Bullfinch's "Age of SHIVERY" was received at Montague.

-o-O-o-

Note: "Will you please let this boy have a book for me, as I am sick on the teeth."

-o-O-o-

Librarian: "Boy, where is your card?"

Boy: "I don't know; the library teacher took it away because it was exposed."

-o-O-o-

Bay Ridge Branch is having a very interesting exhibition of pictures of old Bay Ridge. Some of the pictures were loaned by Mrs. Blackmar, who was formerly Branch Librarian of Bay Ridge.

-o-O-o-

Grethe Daw Zwilgmeyer, eleven years old, has recently registered at Bay Ridge Branch. Dikken Zwilgmeyer, the author of "What Happened to Inger Johanne," was her great-aunt.

-o-O-o-

Little boy of eight, who has just returned his application signed by parent--"Will I get my card now, Missus?" Librarian explains he will have to wait a week, as we have to send to Headquarters for the card. Boy's eyes grow larger. "To Police Headquarters?" he asks.

-o-O-o-

A boy, about eleven, was wandering about aimlessly, looking quite bewildered. "Well what do you want?" asked the librarian. "Vermin," said the boy. "Vermin - do you mean something about vermin?" "No, I mean a book by Vermin." "Oh, you mean '20,000 Leagues under the Sea,' by Jules Verne." "Yes, that's it."

-o-O-o-

TRANSFERS

On March 18th, Sarah Cohen was transferred from the Leonard Branch to the Crown Heights Branch and Mary O'Keane was transferred from the Bushwick Branch to the Kings Highway Branch.

-o-O-o-

Leonard reports the following catastrophes:

Miss Cohen was transferred, and "Leonarda," the branch mascot, was kidnapped!!

A tea-party was given in Miss Cohen's honor by her co-workers. As St. Patrick's Day was her last official day at Leonard the decorations were green and the festivities decidedly gay in spite of great regret at her going. She will also be Leonard's guest of honor at a theatre-party in April.

Leonarda, the proud mother of feline sextuplets, some bearing the names of the illustrious in library circles, was secluded by force in the home of a neighbor over a week-end, whereupon her two-weeks-old progeny nearly perished, and the Leonard staff found out that to be "nearly always exceptionally accurate" in "sizing up a situation" is not enough!

-o-O-o-

Librarian (questioning a new ten-year-old member on the regulations of the Children's Department.):

"----And what should you not bring to the library?"

Answer: "Matches, cigarettes, and knives."

-o-O-o-

The opening sentence of a first-assistant's report to her Branch Librarian on a particularly impressive Foreign Policy Association meeting: "Oh!!! He was such a darling!!! He spoke with an English accent and a bit of a lisp!"

-o-O-o-

Augie and Leo returned the encylopedia, in which they had been reading the life of George Washington.

"Well, Augie," said a member of the Leonard staff, "do you want to be a soldier like George Washington when you grow up?"

"No," said Augie, "I want to be a detective."

"And you, Leo," said the librarian, all smiles, "what do you want to be?"

"A crook!" said Leo.

(In vindication of Leo we may say that he is really going to be an aviator, but his sense of humor just gets the better of him when inquisitive ladies pry into his private life.)

UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Council of the United Staff Association held in Miss Conway's office on February 13, the following business was transacted:

Mrs. Ella M. Perry, chairman of the Committee on Tenure of Office, submitted the report of her committee, revised in accordance with suggestions received after the general meeting of the Association This was referred again to the Committee with some suggestions of the Council for its consideration.

The report of Mrs. Helen E. Wessells, chairman of the United Economic Committee, was approved. This calls for the sending out of a questionnaire to all branches and departments, in order to find out the organizations in their community, with which the library is co-operating or which are interested in the library, and, also, the organizations (not necessarily in the community) with which members of the staff are connected. This information will be sent in on sheets and transferred to a card file, alphabetically arranged by organization with the branch having the connection indicated. The sheets will be kept as a locality file. The United Economic Committee plans to make contacts with organizations where none exists and to keep the file up to date, so that it may be used to bring out support for the library at a time when it is needed.

It was decided to accept the offer of the Womens City Club to extend a four months' complimentary membership to the members of the United Staff Association. Since the United Parents' Association which had such a large part in starting the Citizens' Committee is in the midst of a campaign to raise $25,000, it was voted to contribute $10.00 to their fund.

A letter from Miss Dorothy Elizabeth Smith, chairman of the Professional Committee, reported that Dr. Joeckel of the University of Michigan Library School, who was invited to be the first speaker at a series of talks to be held for the United Staff Association, was unable to come at this time because of pressure of other work. The Council voted to ask Miss Smith to continue her efforts to arrange a meeting or series of meetings.

Other business which was discussed is yet unfinished and will be reported on later.

-o-O-o-

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AMONG OURSELVES

B.P.L.
STAFF
ASS'N
1934
1935

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 17 May 1935

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association
in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

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Ada J. Cobb (M)
Winifred B. Jackson (S)
Adelaide A. Kennedy (F)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)

-o-O-o-

THAT FATAL DAY; OR, THE GREAT GOD TELFORD

Presented by the Williamsburgh Staff, April 30, 1935

Curtain rises on a quartet dressed in sandwich-boards on which is printed "Telford Efficiency Reports," and with large dunce-caps on their heads, with words "Usually, Nearly, Always, Exceptionally" printed on each. Two of the quartet wear men's sport-shirts and tennis-slacks, and their usually dainty feet are encased in slightly oversized sneakers. The quartet sings the following song, to the tune of "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze."

The Poor Young Librarians on the Telford Report

Once they were happy but now they're forlorn,
Like an old book that is tattered and torn,
Left in this library to weep and to mourn,
Dismayed by Telford A-B-C's.
Now, this Telford he may be efficient,
So they tried all they knew him to please;
But they never could make out one quarter so well,
Though through Probst they had managed to squeeze.

Chorus:

They flit round the desk with the greatest of ease,
This ambitious young staff Mr. Telford to please.
Most nearly always exceptionally neat,
They are markedly slow on the largest of feet.

The quartet leave the stage, two on one side and two on the other, and stand just at each side of the stage.

Act I

Scene: Any library before 9:00 A.M.

Two small tables, one having a large atlas with crossword puzzles dripping from it and some littered about the floor, the other having a blotter, ink-wells, stamps, stamp-boxes on it. One chair in close to the table. On the wall in the center back is hung a target.

Librarian A at the right front of the stage, dressed in a house-dress, old shoes, and hair in kid curlers, a placard on her back on which are printed the words, WORKS PRACTICALLY INDEPENDENTLY. She has a pop-gun in her hand and practices at the target at the back center of the stage.
Librarian B, dressed in beach-pajamas, with a placard on her chest which bears the words OFTEN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS. Leans over the pile of crossword puzzles on the atlas and turns the pages.
Librarian A shoots slowly five or six times, and the report sounds loudly everywhere.

Librarian B (mutters): A three-letter word for ichthyosaurus--fish--one--two--three--No, that won't do---

Librarian A continues to shoot, too absorbed to look up. Enter Librarian C in a riding-habit, limping and rubbing an outraged thigh. Wears a sign: USUALLY SUFFICE FOR JOB.

Librarian B (abstractedly): Hello.

Librarian C (panting): I've been riding all night to get here, and belive me,--- I've OVERCOME SOME OBSTACLES. (To Librarian A, who is too preoccupied to answer.) What the heck are you doing?

Librarian B: Oh, she's busy practising to be A SQUARE SHOOTER.

Librarian C (turning to Librarian B): Have you been here all night?

Librarian B (scornfully): Naturally. I've been trying to FIT MYSELF FOR A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS JOB. But I've struck a snag. I don't know what the word "efficiency" means.

Librarian A (stopping briefly): It means to MAKE YOUR WORK MORE EXCEPTIONAL AS TO KIND AND AMOUNT.

Librarian C (cantankerously): Oh, No! It means not TO BE SLIGHT OR PERFUNCTORY IN YOUR WORK.

Enter Librarian D, slightly drunk, dressed in evening-clothes, wearing a placard on which is printed GENERALLY STUMPED BY OBSTACLES.

Librarian A (contemptuously): What, drunk again?

Librarian D (just tight enough to be argumentative): Well, I left my seventh cocktail untouched to get here on time. DRINKING MAY IMPAIR MY WORK but I have loads of GOOD OUTSIDE CONTACTS and I'm AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD MIXER. (Struggles to light a cigarette.)

Enter Librarian E, in shorts, a tight jersey with padded muscles, and boxing-gloves, carrying a tennis-racket. She struts across the stage swinging her tennis-racket. An alarm-clock hangs around her neck and she wears a placard on which is printed, EXCEPTIONAL STRENGTH AND STAMINA.

Librarian E: I've been practising so that I could have EXCEPTIONAL STRENGTH AND STAMINA ADVANTAGEOUS IN MY JOB.

Librarian D (trying to read Librarian E's alarm-clock): What's the time? I can't tell. I'm GENERALLY STUMPED BY OBSTACLES. (Pokes Librarian C)

Librarian C (peeved): Why ask me? Do you think I'm AN INVETERATE CLOCK-WATCHER?

Librarian A: Gee! We'd better get going and set this desk up. We must hurry because we are NEARLY ALWAYS EXCEPTIONALLY PUNCTUAL.

Everyone gets busy doing little things. Librarian E hangs posters on the back wall and most of them are upside down. Librarian D watches her in inebriated amazement.

Librarian D: Well, look at that! She's WORKING PRACTICALLY INDEPENDENTLY.

Librarian E: What of it? Anyhow, I don't care for your ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR SUPERIORS. You GENERALLY OPPOSE ME BLINDLY. Why don't you TRY PLAYING UP TO YOUR BOSS once in a while?

Librarian B: While we are indulging in personalities, judging from what I heard yesterday, your RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC ARE NEITHER TACTFUL NOR CAPABLE.

Librarian C: Well, if you ask me, I think you are all being UNDULY OPINIONATED AND STUBBORN. (The atmosphere is taking on a belligerent hue.)

Librarian A (trying to pour oil on the troubled waters): Now, now, girls. How about showing a little CONTROL OF EMOTIONS? Remember, ANGER, MOODS, AND TEMPERMENT MUCH IMPAIR WORK.

Librarian D (beats on a tin pan): It's nine o'clock.

All (in unison): There's THE DEADLINE.

End of Act I

The quartet files up soberly, even a little lugubriously, and repeats the parody on "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze." They file off and take their places on either side of the stage.

ACT II

Librarian F, as Miss Aspidistra, dressed in lounging-pajamas, with a placard on her chest with "Branch Librarian" printed on it, sits at a table. The table is set with Telford Reports, pencils, cards for notes, etc. On the other side of the table, looking quite pompous, is Librarian G, dressed as Mr. Telford. She is dressed in dungarees of a dark blue hue, with a spotless white shirt and a wing-collar and a red necktie, a small black moustache and an imperial. She has a placard on her chest on which is printed "Mr. Telford." Librarian H, as Miss Woozelberry, is dressed in a riding-

habit and sits at the back of the stage, between Mr. Telford and Miss Aspidistra, on a high stool. Miss Woozelberry wears a placard bearing "The Subject."

Miss Aspidistra (reaches for a Telford Report and in a clear precise voice): Now, Mr. Telford, as to SPEED IN COMPREHENDING, THINKING, AND OTHER MENTAL PROCESSES, I should say Miss Woozelberry comes in this classification: NEARLY ALWAYS EXCEPTIONALLY RAPID. She is----

Mr. Telford (interrupting): Miss Aspidistra, I think you have misunderstood my understanding of this phrase. When I said, "NEARLY ALWAYS EXCEPTIONALLY RAPID", I meant, there are few times, let us say not more than twice in the course of ten years of association with the subject under consideration, that the subject makes any mistake of any type. Certainly, in your years of experience with Miss Woozelberry you have seen at least three occasions on which Miss Woozelberry has thought erroneously on the EMPHASIS OF HER WORK.

Miss Aspidistra: Well, let me see. Now, I think perhaps I do remember more than two times when she has NOT NEARLY ALWAYS found exceptionally good ways out.

Mr. Telford (very suavely): There now, Miss Aspidistra. I was sure you'd remember if you'd try. You certainly would be rated under Class D, perhaps even E, if you were the subject of this report.

Miss Aspidistra (very flattered): Really, Mr. Telford---- (Appears rather coy.)

Mr. Telford: Oh, no; I think so quite seriously. I certainly would like to be one of the checkers of your report. (Very simperingly) You'd make a very interesting subject, a very interesting subject.

Miss Aspidistra (still more coyly flattered): Mister Telford---- (Regains her poise--in a sharp, precise voice) About Miss Woozelberry.

Mr. Telford (coming to with a start): Oh, yes, Miss Aspidistra; I'd almost forgotten. Well, to get back to this report----she---- we were talking about---what was it?

Miss Aspidistra (very businesslike and curtly): We were discussing speed in comprehending, thinking, and other mental reactions. I thought Miss Woozelberry should be rated---

Mr. Telford (quite himself again): Oh, yes. Of course, of course. Now, Miss Aspidistra, are you absolutely sure that each time you give Miss Woozelberry a new piece of work to do she hasn't asked more than seven questions after you have completed your explanation? Are you absolutely sure? Now don't hurry. Think carefully.

Miss Aspidistra (becoming rather agitated): Well, I'm not sure whether I remember exactly. I don't remember ever counting the questions.

Mr. Telford (astounded): Never counted the questions! (Gets up and paces the floor) My dear Miss Aspidistra--never counted the questions! Why, don't you realize that if Miss Woozelberry has asked nine questions after an adequate explanation she should be rated under Class B; that if she has asked twelve questions, in Class A; and more than twelve, there exists no class for her? Have you never realized the vital importance of counting the questions---I repeat, the vital, I might even say the fatal importance, of counting the questions?

Miss Woozelberry: I think---I'm not very sure---I think perhaps I may have asked nine questions, but positively never more.

Mr. Telford (turns to Miss Woozelberry angrily): You mustn't speak. You've got nothing to do with this report. (Florishes a report before her) You are only the subject. There's nothing in it anywhere that allows the subject to speak.

Miss Woozelberry (wails): But I only thought---

Mr. Telford (louder and more mad): You mustn't think! There isn't any place in this report where you are supposed to think.

Miss Woozelberry (in tears): But, I only---

Mr. Telford: Silence!!!---you're only the subject.

An impressive silence, during which Mr. Telford draws himself up in angry silence and taps one foot loudly on the floor.

Miss Aspidistra (more flustered than ever): Well, Mr. Telford, shall we let that go and get on to the next topic? Let me see, that's-

Mr. Telford (very determinedly): I should say not! Most emphatically not! This thing has got to be sifted to the bottom. Soft words butter no cabbage. Do you ever remember Miss Woozelberry asking you to repeat a direction? (With a florish) Strictly speaking, this is not a question. In fact, it might even be expressed in the form of a declarative sentence. But, for the purpose of this report, it has got to be considered as a question Now, think carefully, Miss Aspidistra.

Miss Aspidistra (completely upset): Really, Mr. Telford, I am not sure that I can recall accurately.

Mr. Telford: Think carefully, very carefully. Remember how much depends on this.

Miss Woozelberry (wails): I'm sure that it wasn't more than twelve.

Miss Aspidistra (very excitedly): Perhaps there were ten questions, but if you count repetitions, there might even be eleven or maybe twelve. (She rises and goes over to Miss Woozelberry and comforts her. Miss Woozelberry continues to wail.)

Mr. Telford (gleefully): That's right, Miss Aspidistra. Think hard. What an elegant subject you would make.

Miss Woozelberry (howling): Not more than twelve, Miss Aspidistra, not more than twelve!

Mr. Telford (roars): Silence!!!

Miss Aspidistra (all unstrung): I think---I'm not sure---perhaps. (Pulls her hair and acts entirely deranged.)

Everyone comes on the stage and sings the parody with the quartet.

The End

Note: All words or phrases in capitals have been lifted bodily from the Telford Report.

-o-O-o-

ONE UP FOR DE KALB

Evelyn Silverman, teacher of English and citizenship, under the supervision of the Board of Education, at De Kalb branch, makes the following report:

"Classes are held every afternoon from 12:00 to 4:00---the advanced and intermediate groups from 12:00 to 2:00, and the beginners and illiterate from 2:00 to 4:00. There is a total registration of fifty and an average daily attendance of thirty. Seven different nationalities are represented, ages ranging from about 32 to 50.

"The class is titled English and Citizenship, but the subjects taught include spelling, dictation, letter-writing, conversation, reading, phonics, language or correct usage, grammar, arithmetic, civics, and speech-correction. The guiding principle is to teach what the pupil needs.

"This is the first class of this nature to be conducted in this neighborhood, and each pupil has told me of his happiness in having the opportunity to study English.

"I find the work vital, significant, and creative. The teacher has a marvelous opportunity to serve. I'll use the words of a pupil: 'School has opened my eyes. Before, I was in darkness; now, a new world is before me.'

"I should like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Henderson and members of her staff for the splendid co-operation they are giving all of us."

-o-O-o-

Several members of the staff attened the excercises and festivities held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, May 13-16, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment.

-o-O-o-

The new book by Karl Baarslag "S-O-S to the Rescue," is dedicated to Judge Edwin L. Garvin.

BUSHWICK'S "GARDEN OF VERSES"

(with apologies to R. L. Stevenson)

I

My Dater

I have a little dater that goes here and there with me,
And why I often lose it is more than I can see.
It's a very faithful "charger" and it holds my initials too;
But when mistakes with it are made, it makes me very blue.

II

C.W.S. Project, 89-AX-277

(Where Go the Hours?)

Dark brown is the flooring,
  Smelly is the paint.
It goes along for whole months through,
  Have we no complaint?

III

Foreign Books

Up into the Yiddish "sea"
  Who should climb but little me?
I shelved the books, 'twas not like play,
  Resolved: To come in earlier next day.
                (First come, first pick!)

IV

Our Checks

The friendly check, all green and white,
  I love with all my heart:
It gives me pleasure and delight,
  To cash it at the start.

A bit goes here and some goes there,
  It's spent right straight away,
And I go home in bleak despair,
  To wait for next month's pay.

-- M.S.G. (Bushwick)

-o-O-o-

Edythe M. Frost of Library Extension stopt at the Mayflower Hotel for ten busy days in Washington over the Easter holiday season. She was entertained at tea at the home of Representative Robert L. Bacon, and strange as it may seem, also by Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House, (D.A.R. tea). She also attended the New York State D.A.R. luncheon and national dinner held at the Mayflower Hotel. Among the side trips enjoyed were visits to Fredericksburg, via Mt. Vernon and the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

The last Children's Librarians' Staff Meeting for the season was held at the South Branch. Miss Marjorie Medary, author of "Orange Winter" and "Prarie Anchorage" was a special speaker for the occasion and talked of the background for her books, which is her own pioneer heritage. The Mexican Exhibit which had been at South during April was held over for the meeting; and, assisted by the objects and pictures of gay Mexican color and an accommodatingly bright spring day, the Branch looked very attractive. Apple-blossoms, together with a series of Japanese prints borrowed from the Metropolitan Museum, brought about an almost magical transformation in the usually depressing library auditorium. Miss Crozier, as hostess, welcomed the meeting, and afterwards the Children's Librarians served luncheon in honor of Miss Medary.

-o-O-o-

SIGNS OF SPRING AT BJI

Since we can't live in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden this month, we are consoling ourselves and our public with an exhibit of cherry-blossoms and nightingales as depicted in the Japanese prints borrowed from the Metropolitan Museum.

April showers sent a zealous card-holder of Bji off to Van Cortlandt Park, to follow his hobby of Natural Science. Later in the day he came home carrying an innocent-looking brown-paper bag. After transferring the contents of the bag, together with a cabbage-leaf, to an empty coffee-can, he came to the library. Rushing up to the reference librarian, he removed the top of the can. The librarian shuddered and shrank back. The snake, for it was a two-and-a-half-foot snake in beautiful shades of green and brown, terrified at this unexpected publicity and strange environment, shuddered too, and tried to hide its head under the cabbage-leaf. So the rest of the Bji staff, deciding that they were at an advantage, came up and gazed at the specimen.

The boy said he was keeping the snake at a friend's house because his mother wouldn't let him keep it at home. We identified it as a garter-snake; incidentally, sent the boy away happily clutching Beebe's "Half Mile Down."

-o-O-o-

A Case of the Jitters

City Park Branch has had the jitters, and we feel with just cause Even the janitor and Library cat, to say nothing of the staff, looked carefully around corners before venturing into unlighted places.

We now breathe freely again---"Boo-o-o!" The Library Ghosts have been laid.

We know not where,
Nor do we care;
Since they have left their former lair.

We won't keep you in suspense longer. Workers, out in front, digging, uncovered six human skeletons!!! The police carted them away.

Various explanations have been offered. Some said that prisoners who died on the British Prison Ship were buried here; others that there was once an old burying-ground in this locality; and still other that a battle of the Revolutionary War was fought here. We, however, could verify none of these, either by the oldest inhabitant or Walter Winchell.

-o-O-o-

Are we over-zealous for our children at City Park? Judge for yourself.

Librarian (at the desk, to boy who had supposedly been reading the rules): Did you read and understant them?

Boy: Yes ma'am. (Recites) "The credit union was organized to provide a convenient medium for staff members-----"

Librarian: Please let me see the paper you have.

(The boy handed her "A Message to the Staff," and said, "I found it very interesting."

-o-O-o-

ART OF LETTER-WRITING AT CONEY ISLAND

Chief Librarian,

The bearer of this note, my daughter, wishes to enroll as a permanent member of your library, realizing the great advantages provided as a consequence. Please exercise your due authority accordingly.

Dear ma'm.

I give my daughter full permission to read books. Her eyes have been examined and is in perfect order.

Request for a reserve by a small girl: "How much do you have to pay for a certain book to have the teacher hide it for you?"

Dear miss,

I would like my daughter to belong to the library as she has nothing to do.

Librarian,

please let me know if you have a book called limitation of offsprings and

oblige

THE SPRING LIBRARY INSTITUTE AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

May 4th, Spring Library Institute, and Columbia University - these created a very happy combination, made more so by the presiding of Miss Burdett at the afternoon sesson. Brooklyn was indeed proud of her in that capacity! Library Institutes may come and go; but those of us attending this year's will find it difficult to decide whether the place selected, in itself an inspiration, or the topics discussed made the meeting so enjoyable.

Although spring was not in the air, the surroundings, spring flowers for decoration, and luncheon in John Jay Hall, together with the exhibits of rare books - and beautiful book bindings - all near at hand (and how alluring the early French and Italian bindings were to me!) made it a unique occasion.

The morning session, while not outstanding, aimed by its selected topics to reach some of the problems of the two groups of city and town libraries.

Ernestine Rose, of the New York Public Library, talked on what her Branch is doing in the field of adult education with the aid of a reader's adviser and of a non-librarian field secretary. Aubry Lee Hill, of New Rochelle, discussed the budget problem of a large town library and the necessary contacts with the trustees, city fathers, and town organizations. Mrs. Elizabeth C. Morriss, of Teachers College, Columbia University, showed the need of co-operation between librarians and the adult education groups themselves, in order to make them library-conscious.

And so on to the afternoon session, with Miss Burdett presiding so well and graciously.

Helen A. Ridgway's talk on "The Great Unreached, and Why," representing her house-to-house survey of three hundred families (worked out within a half-mile radius of a Branch library in Queens Borough) and also actual interviews with two hundred and twenty-five persons as to whether they were or were not using the library, was most revealing.

Although the survey may not give a complete picture, at least it was a unique one. Twenty-nine per cent were reading books, but about fifty per cent had no time for reading! Fifty-seven per cent never read books but seventy per cent had used the library through reference service or other contacts. Here again is revealed the fact that circulation statistics are indeed poor measurement standards for library service.

Anna Clark Kennedy, of the New York State Library, gave a talk on "Public and School Library Co-operation," which was of interest. At least it opened up the subject and gave opportunity for future plans which should prove helpful.

Prof. Mary M. Shaver, of the School of Library Service, showed a deft and delightful touch in her remarks on current books. For instance, she found James Boyd's "Roll River" so fascinating that:

1. She forgot to get off her bus at the right stop.
2. She forgot to pay for her dinner.
3. She wept at the end.

And Enid Bagnold's "National Velvet" was delightful fantasy; Thomas Wolfe's latest book, as also his former, rather incoherent, although admitting him to a prominent place among writers; and so on.

Prof. Shaver also spoke of the unhappy habit of some publishers in bringing out on the same day two books with the same title, such as Hilaire Belloc's "Milton" at four dollars and Rose Macaulay's "Milton" at two dollars. (It is easy to see which librarians would purchase these days!)

Tea was served in the School of Library Service, and this ended a profitable and even festive day.

An Afterthought

Of course we are all familiar with the accomplishments of Panizzi; but I suggest to all and sundry who are not familiar with his portrait that they become so at their earliest opportunity - otherwise complications may arise at a most inopportune moment!

-- Marion E. Williams (Bu)

-o-O-o-

WILLIAMSBURGH'S ART EXHIBIT

An exhibition of pencil drawings and paintings in oil and tempera by Solomon Schwartz, of 169 Wilson St., Brooklyn, is on display at the Williamsburgh Branch. Mr. Schwartz has been a resident of Williamsburgh all his life. He is a teacher of art at Public School No. 16, and of Poster Art at the Bushwick Evening High School. He studied at the Art Students' League, New York, and with Mr. Koopman.

The Williamsburgh Branch has supplemented the exhibit with displays of art books and biographies of artists, past and present, and a glass case of artist's supplies.

-- Ruth P. Edwards (W)

-o-O-o-

Best wishes and best fortune to Elda Bocksel of Sheepshead Bay, who takes the fatal step on June 1 and becomes Mrs. Wheeler Crawford. No sequel is ever so exciting as the first book, and no mere wedding could hope to approach the excitement of getting ready for it. That's what we at Sheepshead think; but we give Miss Bocksel leave to disagree, since it's her big day. The Sheepshead staff, and Helen Mills of Library Extension and Mary Dillon of Carroll Park (both formerly members of the Sheepshead staff), celebrated with a pre-wedding feast at Theresa Worthington Grant's on May 14th.

-o-O-o-

Mr. and Mrs. Allison Ross announce the birth of a son on May 18th at Montreal, Canada. Mrs. Ross was formerly Jessie MacIntyre, of Kensington.

At Red Hook, during 1934, classes in English for foreigners and group-help in citizenship were conducted by the State Department of Education and the T.E.R.A. As for the men who live at the Seamen's Y.M.C.A., they were daily users of the Branch. Most of them were jobless, and helped in and around the kitchen and public rooms of the "Bethelship" to earn their room and board. Late afternoons and evenings found them reading history, biography, and novels demanding concentration at the Library.

-o-O-o-

Mr. Cross, Reference Librarian, reports that, in co-operation with the committee in charge of compiling the projected Union List of Newspapers, the holdings of the Library were checked and reported for inclusion in the list to be published. Also, at the request of the National Theatre Conference, a computation was made of books and periodicals at Montague, in the fields of the theatre and drama and complementary classes, for inclusion in a new Survey of Theatre Collections in the United States. The estimate showed: In "Circulating," 5,675 books; in "Reference," 980 books and 450 bound volumes of periodicals; total, 7,105 volumes.

-o-O-o-

Trustee Edmund P. Looney has been elected Treasurer of the Brooklyn Public Library to succeed the late Otis S. Carroll.

-o-O-o-

Joseph J. Baker, President of the Jewish Hospital, has been appointed a Trustee to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Carroll.

-o-O-o-

Dear Lady:

Kindly give my boy an application as I am sick and cannot call my name is Sophie Reiss I live at-----Hubbard Street for five years and my maiden name was Glick I was thirty three years old my mothers name is Yetta my husband he is a salesman at-----and my son Herbert is 12 years old.

-o-O-o-

Girl (rushing in): My friend just brought in "The Girl of the Lubber Lost." May I have it?

-o-O-o-

The citizenship-aid work conducted at Carroll Park under the auspices of the National League for American Citizenship is well-known As for the classes for foreign women formerly conducted by the Neighborhood Teachers' Association, they are now being conducted by a member of Carroll Park's staff, and with marked success. Carroll Park's study-room has also been used by the Committee for Neighborhood Betterment, which is composed of leaders in neighborhood-work, Miss MacMahon representing the Library on this committee.

UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWS

March 20, 1935

The Honorable Thomas D. Thacher
120 Broadway
New York, New York

My dear Judge Thacher:

The members of the Council of the United Staff Association of the Public Libraries of Greater New York have asked me to write to you, believing that you, as Chairman, as well as the other members of the Charter Revision Commission are seriously endeavoring to prepare a City Charter that will be wise and just in its provisions.

Since the public libraries have no place in the present charter, their administration and support have depended upon individual contracts between the city and each of the three libraries, Brooklyn, New York and Queens Borough. In these contracts there is no provision made for pensions for librarians on the respective staffs. On the payroll of the Brooklyn Public Library there are 441, the New York Public Library 847, and the Queens Borough Public Library 351, making a total of 1639. These salaries are paid by the city, and were cut in 1933 and again in 1934 when the salaries of all city employees were cut and when the payless furloughs went into effect. However, when library employees have tried to secure pensions from the city they have been refused on the grounds that they were engaged by private corporations and so were ineligible for city pensions.

In addition to the 847 members of the staff of the New York Public Library there are 702 persons engaged by the Reference Department of the New York Public Library and paid from the corporate funds of the Astor-Lenox-Tilden Foundation. They have no provision for pensions.

The situation is complicated, as you doubtless know from your study of the city government in general and from your experience as a Trustee of the New York Public Library. May the members of this Committee respectfully ask if you deem it fitting that the Charter Revision Commission give thought to expression in the new Charter of the relations between the city government and the library systems of the city? And may we ask if, specifically, the Commission may consider the problem of pensions or retiring allowances for the staffs of these institutions engaged in this public service?

Very truly yours,

Dorothy Elizabeth Smith
Chairman, Professional Committee
United Staff Association

DES:lgc

New York City Charter Revision Commission
Hon. Thomas D. Thacher, Chairman

March 26", 1935

Miss Dorothy Elizabeth Smith, Chairman,
United Staff Association
Public Libraries of the City of New York.
New York Public Library,
Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street.
New York City.

My dear Miss Smith:

The Chairman of the New York City Charter Commission has asked me to acknowledge your letter of March 20" and to express his appreciation for the information contained therein with respect to the Public Libraries in the City of New York.

The Chairman wants you to know that this material will be placed at the disposal of the other members of the Commission and the whole question given careful consideration.

Yours very truly,
(signed) Mildred B. Goetz,
Mrs. Norman S. Goetz,
Assistant Secretary.

-o-O-o-

476 Fith Avenue
New York City
April 9, 1935

Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Mayor of the City of New York
New York City

Sir:

At a meeting of the Council of the United Staff Association of the Public Libraries held on April 4th, item No. 29, on the Calander of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of March 8th, containing a resolution by the Borough President of the Bronx concerning restoration of pay cuts to deserving employees of the City of New York was read, and we are asking that the City-paid librarians of the Public Libraries of the City of New York, who likewise received pay cuts, receive the same consideration as the above mentioned group.

With an appreciation of your interest in the libraries and librarians of Greater New York, I am,

Respectfully,

Grace A. Conway
President

GAC:L

The Report of the Committee on Permanency of Position, together with the expression of opinion obtained from all staff members has been referred to Dr. Howard Lee McBain, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee on the Status of the Librarians of the Public Libraries of the City of New York.

After consideration by Dr. McBain and the Citizens' Committee the report will be returned to the Council of the United Staff Association for submission to the administrations of the three libraries concerned for inclusion in their Schemes of Service.

The result of the balloting on the subject is here summarized:

	Yes	No
Brooklyn Public Library	333	11
New York Public Library		
Circulation Department	331	182
Reference Department	126	180
Queens Borough Public Library	168	16
Total	958	389

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AMONG OURSELVES

B.P.L.
STAFF
ASS'N
1934
1935

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A Medium of Communication for the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library

No. 16 April 1935

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association
in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Louis N. Feipel, Chairman (Ad)
Ada J. Cobb (M)
Winifred B. Jackson (S)
Adelaide A. Kennedy (F)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)

-o-O-o-

ON THE ROAD WITH THE BJ PUPPETEERS

On March 28th, Greenpoint was lucky enough to have the Bj Puppeteers at the branch for the afternoon. Mrs. Littlefield and Miss Freeman arrived with the stage and set it up in the auditorium. The staff had been worried about having enough children for a respectable audience, after begging Mrs. Littlefield and Mrs. de Gogorza to come to us. But at three o'clock the children began to come; and they kept coming until the doors were shut and the play began, and even for long after that. Seats were scarce and air scarcer; but, two and three on a chair, they sat and enjoyed themselves for almost an hour. There is no doubt that the performance was appreciated. The plays were "The Miraculous Pitcher" and "Jack and the Beanstalk," and both have been in great demand ever since.

The staff had invited Dr. Ferguson, Miss Hunt, Mrs. de Gogorza, and other distinguished guests to witness the performance, and after the show they all came upstairs and had tea. Greenpoint was showing off shamelessly, but the guests were extremely polite and agreed that the building in its new coat of paint is very gay and attractive. It probably seemed especially nice to them after an hour in the stifling basement; but tea revived them, and they went on their way sounding cheerful enough.

-- Jane M. Colyer

The children who make up Library Extension's hospital public were given a royal treat recently when the librarians from Bj took their travelling puppet-show first to Saint Giles and then to Kings County Hospital.

Youngsters in hospital-beds or wheel-chairs, on crutches or tiny stools, were completely fascinated as they watched and listened to the stories of "The Miraculous Pitcher" and "Jack and the Beanstalk," dramatized by Miss Freeman, Mrs. Littlefield, and Mrs. Quevli. The children had looked forward to this exciting event for such a long time, asking about it each week, hoping they wouldn't have to have an operation that day and so miss the fun.

Many of them had never seen puppets before, and one of the littlest boys was afraid of the red-haired giant until he held it in his hands after the play and saw it was only a doll after all. Joyful shouts of "Fe-fi-fo-fum" rang down the halls long after the puppeteers had departed. It would be hard to say who enjoyed it more, the children or the grown-up visiting librarians and the nurses who

left their work to join the delighted audience.

We are grateful to Mrs. de Gogorza and her staff for bringing happiness and new interest to our shut-in children.

-- Helen M. Mills

-o-O-o-

MEXICO

Land of Fiestas and Siestas, Sombreros, and Serapes

"South" chose to go Mexican during April. And in spite of the difficulty of obtaining travel-posters, we succeeded in bringing a bit of Mexican sunshine and color into the library by introducing Aztec designs, in pink, yellow, and blue, and four-foot cacti painted on manilla wrapping-paper (sh-don't tell Mr. Martin) adorned the walls of the reading-room, while colorful weavings were used as hangings.

Material to put in the glass-case was borrowed from both the American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Staff-members and South borrowers lent interesting examples of Mexican arts and crafts. Mounted pictures gave us vivid glimpses of Mexico, old and new, and the varied types of peoples.

The interest aroused in things Mexican is shown by the increased circulation of books suggested by our annotated bibliography.

The children's room was decorated with reporductions, in color, of the pictures by René D'Harnoncourt in Elizabeth Morrow's "The Painted Pig," and a large picture of Pita graced the fireplace mantel. A pottery pig, in person, gazed at himself as pictured in the book, and dolls in Mexican costume supplemented the picture-books displayed in the "J" glass-case.

-- Dorothy M. Voorhees

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SWEEPSTAKINGS

Take heart, you who are constantly drawn by the lure of the Goddess of Chance, only to meet with perpetual defeat. At last she has seen fit to smile upon a son of the B.P.L., none other than that guileless guardian of the South Branch, Pasquale Venturelli. Pasquale bought a ticket in the Irish sweepstakes a few weeks ago, and was consoled to the tune of 500 dollars for not receiving 50,000. When informed of his sudden ownership of the filthy lucre, Pasquale smiled shyly, shrugged his shoulders, and retorted with his open-sesame to all occasions, "Tha's all ri!"

-o-O-o-

Dorothy Mackay, formerly assistant to Miss Hunt, at Ad, has been appointed librarian of the Monson (Mass.) Free Library and Reading Room Association.

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FLATBUSH FOLLIES

Flatbush Staff Goes to Tea at Miss Marguerite Lennon's

BOOKS---BIRDS---'BROIDERIES. These were the reasons for the gala occasion of Sunday, March 24th.

It was indeed a privilege to handle and examine such a fine collection of limited editions, all beautifully bound and most of them illustrated by well-known artists. The Chinese tapestries, another hobby of Miss Lennon's, were gorgeous. Most of them are really quite old, showing their age in soft, subdued colorings. Each piece of embroidery has a story all its own, which gives the collector an interesting time delving into old books, looking for its history.

According to our informant, "Several beautiful birds sang for us, as we chatted over our refreshments. It was a most enjoyable afternoon; and FLATBUSH LEFT TEA feeling that hobbies were quite worth while.

Spring at Flatbush

Spring has been lingering around Flatbush for several weeks and finally came to stay in a burst of poetry and many birds and real flowers (the birds not being real). "Our Singing Strength" poster display has brought poetry into the souls of many Flatbush borrowers. The birds are delighting the children: they come from the Children's Museum, in migrations. They first arrived in the middle of February and will fly away in May. The flowers are Flatbush's own library-grown hyacinths and forsythia.

In the Course of the Day at Flatbush

Young Boy (to librarian): "Are those columns (meaning those around the circulation-desk) of Doric or Ionic architecture?" We didn't know; but the boy looked them up and informed us they were Corinthian.

Another Young Boy: "Is Mazo De la Roche a living author? Yes? Gee, that's good, then I can read some more of 'his' books when 'he" writes them!"

A Smaller Boy (about ten)---and we've a weakness for small boys: "I want some Mark Twain books, to make murals." And in the short time of fifteen minutes he made a dozen sketches of all the Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn characters. The "murals" may be viewed at the Flatbush Boys' Club.

-o-O-o-

Miss Colby writes from Henniker, N. H., "the only Henniker on earth," so the signboard says, to say that they have bought a little place there, fifteen miles from Concord; and she sends a picture of the house. It is off the main street, on a side-road, ten minutes walk to stores and post-office, on high ground, "so we get a view of hills and woods on all sides of us." Miss Colby wishes to be remembered to all her old friends in the B.P.L.

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SARATOGA'S MAGIC CARPET

Believe it or not, Saratoga and our friends have been wintering abroad since Nov. 2, 1934, and we expect to continue our journey until May 1st. What is most remarkable, we have had a glimpse of ancient times as well as the present, as we sailed about on our veritable magic carpet.

What marvels we have seen, and what a vast amount of knowledge we've acquired, under the direction of two very efficient guides! We have seen shrines, cathedrals, castles, beautiful mountains, lakes, deserts, and every imaginable wonder. In town and country we have been welcomed in the homes of the people, where we have been allowed to wander through the delightfully different interiors and become familiar with their manner of living. We have seen festivals with the brightest of costumes and quaintest of customs.

Our ship sets sail each Friday evening at eight o'clock for a new port and a new adventure. Miss Boies, who is one of our guides, begins by telling us the history and legends of the country for which we are bound, and then about the life as it is to-day. Then a week is spent visiting cities, villages, and contrysides, under the guidand of Miss Lillian C. Folker.

How do we manage all this? On each Friday evening we hear Miss Boies's interpretive readings of yesterday and to-day in each country. Miss Folker has for twenty consecutive weeks displayed remarkable posters, and books on all subjects, thereby supplying the "sightseeing" for each weekly adventure.

So as you see, Saratoga and its friends have indeed been wintering abroad.

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A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Saratoga may have a hand in enriching the history of musical art as well as the pockets of one of its patrons. At all events, we have enjoyed a most interesting research.

It seems that the parents of a young lady of 9 months were so eager for their daughter to be able to appreciate and love music, they determined to buy her a musical instrument. As it happened, a friends knew of a violin for sale, so the parents purchased it for the sum of five dollars. Because the violin was unusually small, they gave it close examination, and it was discovered that inside the violin was the inscription, "Amati Cremone Hyronimi filii an," or so it appeared. With growing interest, the mother of this young "to be violinist" made her way to the library, where she presented the inscription for translation.

JUST SUCH A VIOLIN WAS MADE BY NICOLO AMATI, born Sept. 3, 1596, in Cremone. He was the grandson of Andrea Amati, the oldest of the celebrated Amati family of Italian violin-makers. Nicolo Amati's violins reached the height of perfection of all Amati violins. Andrea Guareri and Antonio Stradivari were his pupils. Nicolo's label, which he pasted in his violins, read, "Nicolaus Amati Cremonens Hieronimi filii Antonii nepos fecit anno 16---." And there we have our connection.

Needless to say, we are anxiously awaiting the verdict of the museum to which the owners of the violin were hurried. In any case, these far-seeing parents are certain of a musical career for their young daughter.

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DARE WE CALL IT A GARDEN?

Two articles that appeared in the Wilson Bulletin of April, 1935, on the desirability of "A Cat in the Library," and "Flowers for the Library Garden", struck a sympathetic note in the Bushwick section. Leonard Branch may have its cat "Leonarda," but Bushwick Branch has its garden, "Bushwickcania."

In spite of a volley of unfavorable remarks as to the success of the venture, some members of the staff have gone ahead and started what may some daybe a rival to the famous Botanic Garden! (Depending, of course, upon a number of things--the neighborhood attitude, salary cuts, and "Deo volente.")

To date there are a dozen large hyacinths and a fair sprinkling of crocuses and scillas which are brightening the horizon until the tulips and daffodils decide to break out. All this in a spot ten feet by three feet!

So far no uprooting or destruction of any other kind has taken place, as had been feared. Our neighbors seem to enjoy the small bit of color seen from Seigel Street and pause to look. Children peer through the fence, perhaps uncertain as to what flowers they are seeing, for everything is "dandelion" to them.

Strange as it may seem, cats are our only invaders; and let us hope that "Leonarda" and all her friends and relatives will tread lightly when they come to call.

- M.S.G. (Bushwick)

-o-O-o-

PAGE LEONARDA, THE CAT

Red Hook may not shine in the matter of circulation and registration records, but we defy anyone to beat us at catching mice. One of our C.W.S. workers reported that she had seen six mice in a row. We suggested that it might have been two mice running around in a circle, but she was so certain that we purchased six traps. In two hours we captured three, in eight hours we had eight, and up to the date of this report (just two weeks) we have counted forty captures. Twice we had two mice in the same trap. Ripley should be informed of this phenomenon. It might be well to mention that none of us had had anything stronger than tea or coffee, in case anyone doubts that part about two mice in a trap.

It seemed to be quite amusing to the borrowers, who saw us making more or less regular trips from the work room and office to the basement with the filled traps. One remarked, "Why, the library must be 'festered' with them."

(Red Hook might call the "Pied Piper" who calls regularly at Montague.)

-o-O-o-

792'S TO APPEAR AGAIN

The 792's - The Brooklyn Public Library Dramatic Club - has been invited to enter the Brooklyn Little Theatre Tournament, which is to be held at the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A. on the evenings of May 16, 17 and 18, with a final runoff on May 25.

Sixteen of the better amateur groups of Brooklyn are now entered in this tournament, which has as its purpose the fostering of interest in the drama and in originalplay-writing.

The 792's are to repeat J. M. Barrie's "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals," which they first presented in 1931. They will appear on Saturday evening May 18, and it is hoped that there will be a goodly representation of the staff of the B.P.L. to cheer them on. Other groups to appear on this same evening are the Brooklyn College Players, The St. George Players, and a group from the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A.

Tickets are forty cents and will shortly be available through staff representatives. Should the 792's be chosen to appear in the finals they will play again on the night of May 25.

-o-O-o-

During the recent cross-word puzzle blight a borrower came to the reference-desk and begged us to help him to find some obscure town (or maybe it was a river) in Japan. He was referred to the somewhat inadequate collection of elderly reference-books set aside for these fanatics. Evidently they were not equal to the occasion. However, a few days later this borrower reappeared and announced triumphantly, "I got it!" Curious to know what unsuspecting library he had raided, or what susceptible librarian had fallen for his Pepsodent smile, we inquired further. "Oh," he said airily, "I went to the Japanese consulate. They had quite a search, but they found it." (From Prospect)

-o-O-o-

Among the lucky people going to the A.L.A. conference will be a party consisting of Miss McDowell, Miss Sands, and Miss Fuller. A fourth person probably will have been added when this appears. Miss McDowell, who will be the driver, has done a wonderful job in planning the trip (or so it seems to those envious souls who have seen and heard the details). They are going out by way of Arizona and will return by way of Wyoming, visiting all the available canyons and including the rather exclusive Rainbow Bridge. This will put them in the class with Miss Esposito and Miss Shumway, who visited Rainbow Bridge last year. How many other staff members have been there?

-o-O-o-

On August 24th, Miss Boies of Saratoga will sail on the Lafayette for a two months' trip to England, Scotland, and France, spending about three and a half weeks in England and Scotland and the rest of the time in France. Miss Boies will return October 31st

-o-O-o-

The following special-delivery, addressed to the Branch Librarian at Coney Island, arrived while she was on her vacation. A member of the staff hastily re-adressed it and sent it special-delivery to Miss Tuttle, who was awakened at midnight to claim it. The letter was just a reply to the usual messenger letter! Here it is:

Dear Madam:

I was not at home when your letters came as I was in Ellenton, S. C. with my daughter May Burns and the letters was send to me down here. As for the library books I hope you don't think my daughter or myself would steal them, as I don't care enough about Reading Books to either steal or keep them and if I'm did like books enough I am sure well able to pay for them and not steal them. I am sure I will not make myself so cheap as to run away with the books and 88 cents fine for them as I was raised to be honest and also a Lady and a Respectable one at that and not a theif. And I sure am Raising my daughetter as a lady and a honest one at that and I expect the library to Respect me as a Lady and not as a theif. And just as soon as my daughter or myself return to N.Y.C. I will see that you get yours book back also pay what ever there are to pay for them. I have never been put in a Jail House and I sure will not let you or any one put me or my daughetter in such a place if I know it. Please don't write to me that way again, as you sure will get your books back as soon as I return to N.Y.C. if you care to wait that long. Thanks to you for sending us the letters.

Yours Respect.

-o-O-o-

A young lady was wandering vaguely about near the fireplace in the children's room.
Librarian: "Are you looking for something?"
Young lady: "Yes, I want 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and they told me to look under the stove!"

-o-O-o-

"I would like a book about the sea, but none that says 'I did this' or 'I did that'."

-o-O-o-

Even the library is not immune from practical jokers. On April 1st, Brownsville had a request for "Mr. Book" on the telephone! Such is the price of fame.

Miss Hope Swain of Brownsville spent an interesting week-end recently in Washington. She visited many of the famous and historic buildings and was enchanted by the cherry blossoms, lovely harbinger of spring.

-o-O-o-

CULLED FROM CENTRAL REGISTRATION

Anna Parlapiano
Selma Breath
Fleishaker
Jerry Piccininni
Herbert Gotbetter
Robert Gathercole
U. Read Macbeth
Icy Lee
Blossom Sweetapple
Goldie Hairs
Albert Boen Turnipseed
Fleur-de-Lys Sheer
Mae Drain
Poppy Wolf
Sue Nebor
Vic Thor
June Rose
Hettie Silva Snow
Ida Gruntwagin
Rose Busch
Isie Weiss (Is he?)

REGISTERED AT NEW UTRECHT

June Blossom
Gutti Love
Chris Cross
Sheila Betty Mee
Gay Bookbinder
Timothy Trott

-o-O-o-

New Utrecht gave a small library luncheon for Miss Reed of Mapleton to welcome her to her new locality.

The day was perfect, the luncheon was perfect, and everyone had a good time. The thought has come to me, it might be a good idea if in the autumn the branches were grouped according to location, and the branch librarian s would meet occasionally and have lunch (make it co-operative). Naturally the talk turns on library affairs and something constructive might come from it.

-- Julia R. Gwyn

(A propos of this, the "Eastern district" has a Union List of important reference books and the branches cooperate in this and other ways.)

-o-O-o-

Upon hearing that the famous "Guinea Pigs" is about to have a sequel

(To the tune of "Gallagher & Shean")

Oh--Mr. Kallet--and Mr. Schlink--
Is the business world as wicked as you think?
Do they skulk with dreadful ease--
Dropping arsenic in the peas--
Crippling populations with concoctions weird?
Oh--Mr. Kallet--and Mr. Schlink--
Are you calling "Wolf" too often, do you think?
For we flourish as the bay--
Consuming poisons day by day--
Is it just luck, Mr. Kallet--
Is it ignorance, Mr. Schlink?

-- Alice M. Huchthausen (Ep)

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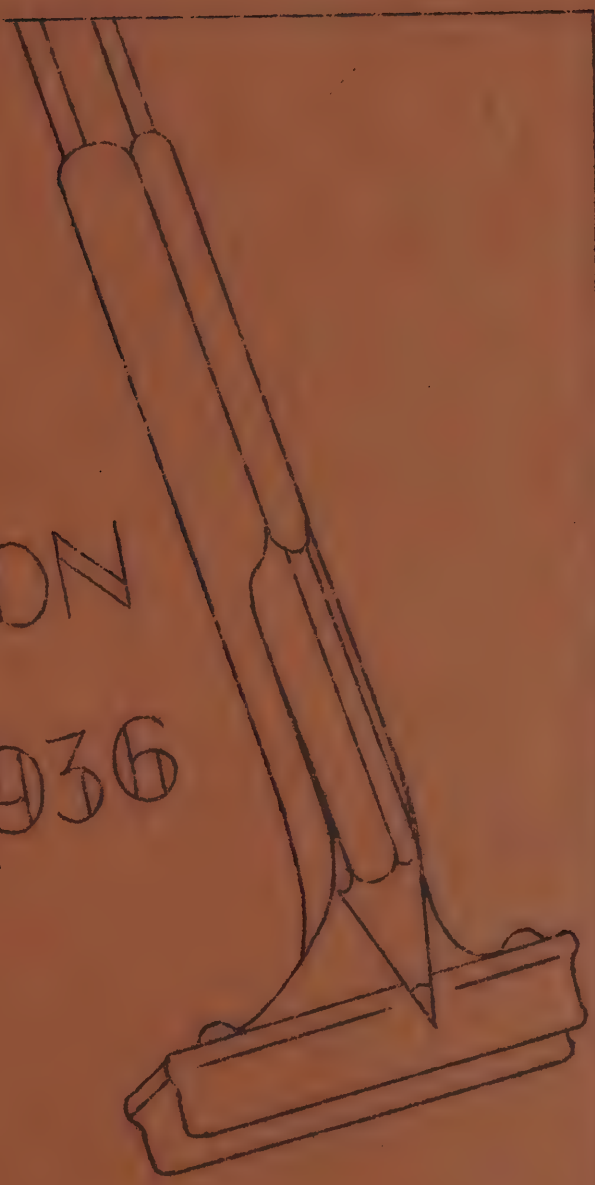
BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936



AMONG OURSELVES

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Adelaide A. Kennedy, Chairman (F)
Marjorie S. Ladd (Ep)
Alice F. Hale (K)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)
Marilla V. Williams (W)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)

VOLUME III NOVEMBER, 1935 NUMBER II

PENSIONS

At a meeting of the Council of the United Staff Association held on October 16, 1935, the following resolution was passed. A copy has been sent to each member of the Board of Trustees.

Whereas, the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library lacks the security of pensions and has long suffered from this lack, and

Whereas, the present time is one of general interest and public demand for social security, and

Whereas, the Staff of the Brooklyn Public Library is undergoing great unrest due to a lack of such security, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Council of the United Staff Association of the Public Libraries of the City of New York urge upon the Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library that they actively investigate the possibilities of securing pensions at this time, that they approach the city authorities to discover the conditions under which the Library Staff can enter the city pension fund, and that they cooperate with the trustees of the other library systems in this city in carrying out such conditions and in supporting the pension proposals through all necessary legislation.

With a change only in the name of the library, the same resolution was sent to all of the trustees of the Queens Borough and New York Public Libraries.

Gerald D. McDonald, Secretary
United Staff Association

HOSPITALIZATION SERVICE

Among the great services that have been offered to us as a library group recently is the 3-cents-a-day plan for hospital care. Not that we aim to "Sojourn" in a hospital, but it sometimes falls to our lot. Illness is something that hangs over us like the sword of Damocles, especially the financial side.

It is comforting to know that for a few dollars as subscription fee, one can spend 21 days in any hospital in the New York area without any worry of having to pay the usually exhorbitant hospital bills. And one may have one's own doctor in attendance. There are many other excellent features concerning the plan and we are glad our number of subscribers was sufficient to be considered for membership.

Miss Marion E. Williams of the Bushwick Branch is Chairman of the Hospitalization Plan and it was through her efforts that the plan was presented to us. Mrs. Helen B. Hamlet, president of the Staff Association, is also to be commended for launching the project in our group.

To date 114 members of the Brooklyn Staff have subscribed to this plan.

HARD TIMES PARTY
Thursday Evening - November 21

We promise you

FUN, FOOD, AND A FROLIC

Come as you are! - or in Costume.

(You may win a prize, remember)

PACIFIC IS THE PLACE

BAY RIDGE TO THE RESCUE

I am writing of my twelve day cruise on the United Fruit freighter, "Musa," because of some rather unusual happenings. The voyage was sunny and very calm until we had passed Hatteras, then rougher seas began. By Monday morning, it was getting very rolly and storm warnings of the hurricane ahead of us were received. Our boat slowed down to one-quarter speed, and all day long at intervals of one hour, the wireless gave news of the path of the hurricane. At 9 P. M. the boat started off at its most extreme speed, and we all went to bed with the thought that word had been received that the hurricane had turned back and our Captain was trying to beat it.

Tuesday morning, when we come on deck, (and every one was up very early), we saw land on our right and we thought we were passing Florida as we should be. But we soon found we were taking a course which the boat had never taken before and going down through the Bahamas. We were keeping our distance from the dangerous coast. At breakfast, we were told that we were answering the S.O.S. call from the "Dixie." We were at a great distance from the boat in distress and really outside the zone of answering but were to get there at our speediest. If the "Dixie" were going to pieces, ours was the boat to go in and take off the passengers. The "Musa" and its sister ship the "Platona" have very powerful engines and we were the only boats with power enough to get us through such rough seas. The "Platona" was already standing by but very heavily loaded with bananas. Our small company was very much interested but no one was panicky. All were calm and quiet. After our exciting day we arrived at the "Dixie" at eleven that night. Here the seas were very high but the unfortunate boat was still holding fast and we were ordered on our way. We could see the lights of the seven ships standing by and those of the wrecked boat.

During the remainder of our cruise, we could enjoy the wonderfully beautiful color of the Caribbean Sea. We visited three very interesting and picturesque ports in Honduras and one in Guatemala. As guests of the United Fruit Co. we were shown all the steps in the great banana industry. Now I have great respect for the banana.

Laura Taylor (Br)

ABERNETHY LIBRARY

It was quite a delight in these days of cautious book selection, to examine a collection where the buying of first and limited editions is still possible.

The Abernethy Library, an integral part of the college library of Middlebury, Vermont contains many an item of great value to the scholar and the student. Of all its sixty-five hundred volumes, mainly of American literature, about 314 are first editions or autographed copies. Some of the high spots are: the first edition of Irving's Knickerbocker History; the Sketch book owned by William Cullen Bryant; the presentation copy to Matthew Arnold of the life of Emerson by Oliver Wendell Holmes; a first of Cooper's Deerslayer; a first of Jonathan Edward's treatise on the "Freedom of the Will." There are also books inscribed by Howells, Bryant, Whittier, and Longfellow. Another great and rare feature of the collection is the Thoreau material. This includes thirty-one different editions of Walden in French, German, Russian and Czechoslovak; there are also English and American editions.

The exclusiveness of this collection is not a bar to expansion, and today many contemporaries have been added; Sherwood Anderson, Theodore Dreiser, Willa Cather; there is also a first of Moby Dick and Ethan Frome. It is indeed a wonderful collection and fittingly housed in mahogany trappings.

Dr. Julian W. Abernethy of the class of 1876 of Middlebury college presented this collection of books to the college. His scholarship also extended to Brooklyn. He served for sixteen years as principal of the Berkeley Institute of Brooklyn. Dr. Viola C. White, formerly of the Brownsville staff, is now curator of the Abernethy collection at the Middlebury college.

NEW YORK CITY
offers you its

Museums, Art Galleries, Parks, Zoos, Planetarium, Aquarium, Architectural wonders, Concerts, Gardens - VISIT THEM.

That's just what South tried to get the public to do; take advantage of the interesting, unique and education possibilities in Greater New York. Miss Dorothy Voorhees who planned and executed the exhibit hoped to show by means of pictures, phamphlets, books and minature cases the type of material to be seen in various public exhibitions.

The Museum of the City of New York very generously loaned South six framed pictures, "Night scenes of New York," by Samuel H. Gottscho, and a series of illuminated cases showing the progress of education in New York City from the early Dutch schools to the present day modern high school. Children have been clustered about the miniature rooms gazing open mouthed at the little boys and girls of other years "doing sums."

The exhibit colors were planned around the large City flag which hangs from the top balcony. The orange and blue was repeated in posters, while the modern spirit of the skyscraper is shown in silver and black. A large frieze showing the New York skyline from under the Brooklyn Bridge was prominently displayed in the balcony.

The Natural History Museum of the City of New York was represented by a lighted case showing the Indians trading with the Dutch settlers, and a series of four small cardboard "theatres" depicting various animal habitat groups which may be seen at the Museum life size. The backgrounds and colors have been reproduced in exact colors.

Many people have asked for directions as to location and hours of opening of various places brought out in the exhibit and we hope they have had the fun of going to and seeing for themselves the wealth of material available.

This exhibit closed November 11th.

LAMENT FOR LEONARDA

Leonarda the cat, whose adventures and full life have brought joy and inspiration - not only to the Leonard staff but to the whole B.P.L. is no more. A devoted mother she passed away at the height of her career, leaving behind to mourn her, a number of children and grandchildren and two bereft godparents. Her father and mother, brothers and sisters, (if any), are unknown.

Leonarda's kidnapping was the cause of much excitement in library circles last spring, and came about directly from her great proclivities as a mouser, which were neighborhood famous. (Indeed, we wonder, now that Leonarda has gone, just what the mouse situation at Leonard may be in the barren days to come.)

With a true "curiosity that killed a cat," Leonarda was a real feline, emulating her dear staff-mates in all things. At the numerous functions for which her progressive branch is famous, luncheons, teas, book-exhibits, receptions, etcetera, Leonarda might always be counted on to be in the front line of those gracious hostesses who always make a visit to this branch such an event. There was little at the Leonard branch that Leonarda did not inspect and supervise, and approve or disapprove.

It was natural then, that when the PWA workmen arrived to tar the roof, Leonarda should give them and their apparatus, her closest attention. On a tour of inspection one morning, she wandered into the boiler box of the tar furnace. The PWA boilerman arriving a few minutes later, and being unaware of her proximity, touched a match to the gasoline blow-torch. A startled yeowl - a torch-swan song as it were - gave warning, but too late! Leonarda departed this life in a blaze of glory - even in death serving her beloved branch.

May the memory of her dear sweet presence and gracious ways be long enshrined in the hearts of her staff-mates - and in the tar of the Leonard roof.

MEOW

FLATBUSH AT ROCKAWAY POINT

One lovely Saturday afternoon in August the Flatbush staff took the Rockaway boat to visit Miss Ovestad's bungalow. We were soon in our bathing garb, and braving the deep blue deep blue ocean waves, which had no mercy on us. Exhausted, we sunned ourselves on the beach, and enjoyed the highballs and refreshments served by our hostess. Snapshots and moving pictures were taken. The movies of the group crawling through a hole in the fence - especially the movies of those who hadn't sylph-like figures - were highly successful.

The Council of the United Staff Association, entertained the committee chairmen of all three libraries at a tea Sunday afternoon, October 20, at the Hotel Commodore. This is an annual custom of the Council and it always provides a happy opportunity for the committee chairmen to get acquainted and to talk over plans for the year.

The Book Week exhibit at Williamsburgh features "Natural Wonders." The posters of prehistoric animals made by Miss O'Gara have been augumented by an illuminated exhibit case and other objects borrowed from the Museum of Natural History.

Mrs Evelyn Sommerhoff (W), returned October 21 after spending her vacation in Europe. Mrs. Sommerhoff visited in Holland and Germany.

THE DUNKER'S CATASTROPHE

Bushwick Branch was full of the old "twitch" the other day when their doughnut order arrived. The camp fire girls sent 15 dozen instead of the 4 dozen doughnuts which were asked for. Upon deep investigation, it was found that one of the 4 orders was for 6 plain and 6 sugared (meaning doughnuts not boxes of doughnuts.) Not even Bushwick could take it!

Moral of this tale: Don't count your doughnuts before they are boxed, especially when sending in an order.

TRI-BOROUGH BRIDGE

UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Why: Pensions! Pensions! Pensions!

When: December 9 and 10 at 8:15 P.M.

Where: Commodore Hotel - East Ball Room

How Much? - Not Much - $1.00 per person

ALL PROCEEDS FOR USE OF PENSION COMMITTEE

Prizes for each table - Door prizes
Non-Players' Prizes

BRING YOUR FRIENDS OR COME ALONE,
BUT COME ANYWAY

Staff Representatives will be
supplied with tickets

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Miss:

What is the reason why my child cannot join the library without knowing the family history? She asked me if she could join and I said yes. I thought that would be enough. My husband works at----- as a butcher.

Signed

A high school student came to the reference desk at Williamsburgh and asked for the private life of Julius Caesar. She was given an encyclopedia and retired, but soon returned it, remarking that "It wasn't private enough."

The Williamsburgh staff was delighted to welcome back their Branch Librarian, Miss Gwendolen Brown on November 1. Miss Brown has been absent for some time because of illness.

A new juvenile borrower showing the librarian a slightly damaged book said, "This book is a little wounded."

THE NAMM STORE WINDOW DISPLAY

A Fall Brooklyn Public Library exhibit seems to have become the fashion. Last year it was the Flower Show which greeted us immediately after vacation with a request for a display and this year it was The Namm Store. This Store, in connection with its special Brooklyn Day celebration, October 16-17, offered its thirty-two windows to different commercial houses and civic institutions.

In spite of the fact that it was a difficult time of year with vacations still going on, it seemed too good an opportunity to lose for getting the library's story before the public. So the invitation was accepted, with Mr. Nourse and Miss Thackray the original committee. This committee was augmented later to include many other people with whose enthusiastic and efficient help the exhibit was made possible. Miss Olcott and Miss Irene Smith assembled the books; Mrs. Clear, Miss Barbara Smith, Miss Christine Smith, and Miss Sands planned and executed the map and the posters; Miss Johnson of Bedford and Miss Hannigan of Greenpoint made models of the library activities in each of which appeared innumerable tiny books contributed by members of Miss Christine Smith's department.

The purpose of the display was to give the public as simply as possible an idea of the various types of library activities - to show what is being done at present and to indicate the larger service which could be given with a central building and added branch libraries. All articles in the window contributed to this end - the pictures along the front, the foreign dolls grouped with the foreign and naturalization books, the models of library scenes - a story hour, a home scene, a hospital scene, a camp scene - the large map in the rear center showing present and needed branches - the explanatory poster showing the picture of the present library wing. Of course books - new books -many of them - attractive in format and on tempting subjects formed the bulk of the display. To be sure this brought comments from some observers that they could find "no such nice clean books in the branch libraries."

The judges, however, evidently did not take exception to the shiny freshness of books or other objects shown for, though we did not conform to Namm's original request for movement in the window, the exhibit was given third place. The first and second prizes went to window of commercial houses where movement had been provided.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE

One of the objectives of the Professional Committee is to aid the staff in every way in maintaining its professional standards and ideals. Now that librarians in New York State are required to be certified in order to qualify legally for positions as librarians, the term "Librarian," and all terms applied to grades of service which come under certification, have come to mean something very definite to those who have qualified themselves. Members of the professional staff have, therefore, looked with dismay at the classification cards of CWA or WPA workers, who, without the least bit of library training or professional library experience, are rated as "Assistant Librarians."

The Professional committee chairmen of the three staff associations in greater New York met with Mr. Kirscher, the Technical Supervisor of Library, Museum, and other projects, and discussed with him the possibility of having the classification "Assistant Librarian" changed. Mr. Kirscher said that such a change could be made very readily and the more satisfactory and descriptive term "Senior Clerk" be used instead, with no change in pay for the person so re-rated. The only requirement would be that the head of the co-operating agency should approve all applications for re-rating the individual workers now classified as "Assistant Librarians."

The Professional Committee of the United Staff Association drew up a report of the meeting to be sent to the heads of the three "co-operating agencies" to bring the matter to their attention and secure their support.

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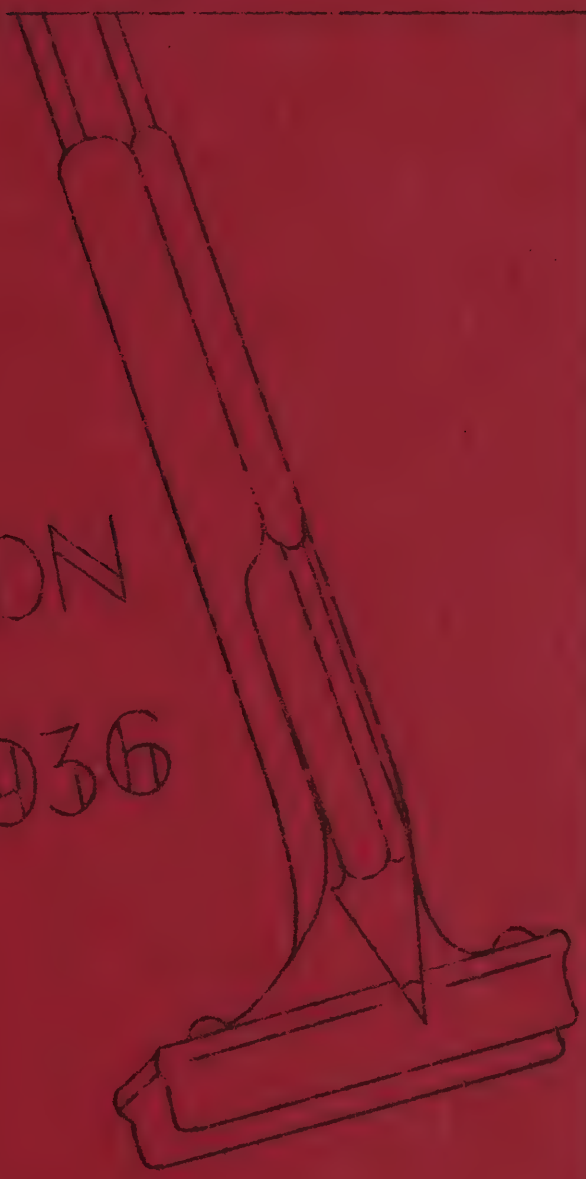
BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936



AMONG OURSELVES

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Adelaide A. Kennedy, Chairman (F)
Marjorie S. Ladd (Ep)
Alice F. Hale (K)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)
Marilla V. Williams (W)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)

VOLUME III | DECEMBER, 1935 | NUMBER III

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Does it seem a year to you since last I tried to ring our Christmas bells? Surely, it does not to me. The reason, I would guess, is that we have been very busy with our job, and, I hope, so engrossed in living and doing that passing time is scarcely noted. Christmas is not exactly Thanksgiving, so we are not called upon to catalogue items of thankful rejoicing; but, nevertheless, there is a spiritual need, at this time, of reading those musical notes which compose the score of our annual carol. No doubt the major theme which runs through the composition is the daily task, faced cheerfully, gladly, helpfully. Reading that score, one should be able to strike those homely but satisfying bells in the middle ranges of the chimes. But, I have faith that each of your will treasure in his own heart bursts of song, and flights of melody, marking the rarer and more beautiful experiences which signify spiritual growth and satisfactions. All of these notes woven together should mean life enthusiastically lived, hopes enduring, and confidence in everything to which men pin their faith.

We have had, during the past year, renewed demonstration of the value of our services to the people of this great and heterogeneous community. We have felt the ties of friendship and loyalty which find us together as a body dedicated to a worth while enterprise. Disappointments have been met, and faced with courage; greater strength thereby arising. While some of our goals have not been crossed, we have not lost sight of them, nor ceased to move forward as conditions permit. Recognition of governmental approval of our work has not been lacking--something which should call for a special Christmas peal. Of the untiring interest of our Board of Trustees in all those matters which pertain to staff well-being - we have daily and convincing evidence. And as for my own readiness to plan with you, I hope the "open-door" policy is token enough.

So we need not look back with any sort of regret; and, what is better, we may face the future with everything to gain. That, I maintain, is something to add power to the vigor with which this season we ring our Christmas bells.

Yours for belief in Santa Claus

Milton J. Ferguson

Chief Librarian

LIFE AT KINGS HIGHWAY

What cloistered lives you librarians in Carnegie buildings lead! I daresay that in the course of a day you see scarcely a person who is not engaged in some bookish pursuit. The bustling world passes far from your door.

At Kings Highway the situation is different. We share a community building with other lucrative businesses. Upstairs is a Reformed Jewish Synagogue which hums with activity on holy days. Dancing classes are also held upstairs and the voice of experience tells you solemnly that you have never fully appreciated tap dancing until you have charged books hour after hour to the rhythm of tapping feet. Beneath us is a bowling alley - a most superior bowling alley which contributes its distinctive sounds. Disregarding the tailor shop and laundry which occupy the front of our building and offer good hearty smells if nothing else, let us advance into the neighborhood. Near us is a home relief bureau housed in a most unprepossessing building. The candidate applying for relief for the first time views the landscape over and concludes the library is the most public looking building around. Consequently we have had the first opportunity to view most of the needy of the neighborhood. Finally our corner is a favorite haunt of the soapbox orator. Hardly a night goes by without our hearing some burst of eloquence.

Conversation never lags at Kings Highway. We are never reduced to discussing the latest books or the relative merits of Jane Austen or James Fennimore Cooper. No indeed! We deal out such morsels as these: "They learned a new step in dancing class today. Selma Podersky was late so several of the girls demonstrated it to her in the foyer. It's quite keen." "They're staging a big exhibition bowling match downstairs Saturday night. You ought to come back and see it." "A poor man came in today to apply for relief. He has nine children and six of them don't have any shoes!" "When I was going home last night I heard the speaker on the corner shout 'Down with the Capitalist!' I was frightened for a moment until I jingled the 14 cents in my pocket. They surely wouldn't have any evil designs on me."

At Kings Highway we have our troubles. The shelves are so crowded that it seems sometimes as if the books will have to be stacked in piles on the floor, On busy evenings poor John Public wanders around hopelessly trying to find a quiet corner in which to read "The Atlantic Monthly." The staff looks in vain for an empty spot in the workroom in which to do a little honest and necessary work. We put all our coats, hats, rubbers and umbrellas in one small closet and after careful arrangement shut the door quickly before some recalcitrant garment has a chance to bulge out. All these minor discomforts we endure with a smile for after all few librarians have the privilege that is ours. We can "live in a house by the side of the road where the race of men go by. We can live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

SELF CHARGING AT BEDFORD

On November 4, Bedford inaugurated a Self Charging System. Before bringing his books to the main desk, the borrower pencils his branch symbol and card number on the book card. The Assistant at the desk checks the number on the book card. The Assistant at the desk checks the number and stamps the dating slip and the reader's card, but not the book card. Two processes are thus eliminated and the time saved is appreciable, especially during the busy hours.

This system is increasingly in use by the branches of the N.Y.P.L. It is also used by Columbia University and a number of out of town libraries. In addition to the time saving element, all claim for it increased accuracy; the borrower writes only one number, and that his own, whereas the Assistant writes scores over a long period of time, and is inevitably fatigued and may grow inaccurate.

There has been favorable and humorous comment: "What do you mean by self charging, how much are you going to charge?" "Is this like a cafeteria?" "I think it is a fine idea." "Oh! Then I can do this at home." Adverse comment has been restricted to a fear that the new way would lead

to a general discharge of librarians, but this apprehension is quickly dispelled. It is too soon to pronounce final judgment on the new way. We anticipate a few pitfalls but, again taking "New York's"word for it, these are readily taken care of and in no way detract from the advantages gained.

Season's greetings to you, friends,
And pray you, hear my say
Concerning celebration of
The coming Christmas Day,

"The Other Wise Man" shall be heard,
December's twentieth night
At 8, Miss Fannie Boies will read
Amid the candlelight.

To you, our friends, -- by your leave,
A very small request,
The pleasure of your company!
Will you be our guest?

We welcome you, we welcome you;
'Tis true without a doubt,
So come to Saratoga,
The latch-key will be out.

The librarian of the American Historical Society, Mrs. Myrtle M. Lewis, addressed a meeting of the Second and Third Grades, at 9 a.m., Nov. 21st, on the work of her organization, stressing the research in genealogy and local history, She brought many beautiful examples of their publications, including original artists' copies of family trees with illuminated crests. This account of another, and allied, field of endeavor was received with enthusiastic interest.

ECHOES OF BOOK WEEK

Bedford

Book Week at the Bedford Branch offered an opportunity for a small Mexican exhibit. Mounted pictures illustrated the archeological, colonial and modern aspects of the country. There were also reproductions from the frescoes of Diego Rivera, showing fragments of the Mexican movement. The book-table, with new books reserved for the occasion, gave the appearance of sudden wealth, and was respectfully commented upon by the readers.

Crown Heights

Models of the Taj Mahal, of the Greek temple at Paestum, and of Stonehenge are displayed in the windows at Crown Heights. These models were furnished by the Children's Museum.

Flatbush

Among the social events of the month was an Open House at Flatbush. As it was held during Book Week, exhibits were arranged in both departments. The subject in the Children's Room was "Our Wonderful World," while the Adult Department had "Typography and Modern Art" with specially illustrated books and posters designed by Mrs. Bailey. The most enjoyable part however was the "movies" which were shown in Flatbush's attractive Picture Book Room. The first feature was "Picture Book Hour at Flatbush" then pictures of the staff, and the garden, both in summer and winter, making those of us who work in less attractive branches rather envious. The filming was quite professionally done, and much credit is due Miss Ovestad as director and the staff who assisted in the production. And to end a pleasant afternoon, refreshments were served in the staff room.

An extra performance was given later in the week at Picture Book Hour, much to the delight of the children. The film was also shown to Mr. Sullivan, who showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

Greenpoint

Greenpoint had an exceptionally interesting exhibit during book week. The adult room featured art in industry - in glass, china, tools, etc.

The children's room had soap sculpture tinted in natural colors with tempora paints. "My Lady Green Satin and her Maid Rosette" and the "Water Babies" were illustrated in this fascinating way.

A Visitor

Leonard

The Leonard exhibit on SOME MODERN SCULPTORS is embellished by ten pieces of soap sculpture, the contribution of a member of the Boys Hobby Club. The exhibit itself features the outstanding sculptors of the twentieth century; the posters are concerned with some of the work of American sculptors at the National Exhibition of American Sculpture for 1923.

Midwood

Now that Midwood has a children's librarian, it has overcome its natural diffidence and native modesty to the extent of having the first Book Week Exhibit. On the adult side of the house the major attraction was an Indian collection. Kodak pictures mounted on a red background repeated the colors of a particularly beautiful Indian rug which occupied the position of honor. Books on Indians, bits of pottery and old Indian dolls formed the rest of the collection, most of which was loaned by Miss Shumway.

The children's room featured transportation. Boys of the neighborhood made model trains, ships and airplanes. These were supplemented by a model covered wagon, a clipper ship and a variety of colored posters. Illustrated books opened to give intriguing glimpses of various phases of the subject vied in interest with cases borrowed from the museum. These latter portrayed travel from stage coach days till now and drew forth heated discussions as to whether the sample subway was a BMT or an IRT. Echoes of the wonders on display reached far and wide and drew from one six year old of another borough the longing comment, "I wonder why I can't go to Brooklyn!"

New Utrecht

The Book Week exhibit at New Utrecht consisted of a store window display of new children's books. There was no special subject but our clean copies of the more recent books made an attractive window. We had several new posters which added color making our children's room bright and cheery for Book Week.

"DEPRESSION" AT PACIFIC

On Thursday, November twenty-first, The Staff Association held its first party of the season in the Children's Room at Pacific. Being a depression party, the costumes were such as might convince any Board of Estimate that we needed our long lost increases.

The prize for the most appropriate costume was presented to Miss Dorothy Voorhees by Mrs. Milton J. Ferguson. We hope the prize (a can of soup and a bar of chocolate) has appeased Miss Voorhees' suffering.

The high light of the evening was a play given by Miss Julia Holzapfel and Mr. Thomas Taggart, entitled "The Married Life of Clarence and Julia, or Have you a little librarian in your home?"

The music, which added so much to the evening's enjoyment was furnished by the Messrs. Peter and Charles Contegni.

The play, the music, the refreshments, - lifted any feeling of depression and we ate, drank and were merry 'till we heeded the call of home.

The play was originally written by Mr. Taggart for the festivities in honor of Miss Franklin and Mr. Damour last June. Its purpose was to serve as a warning to prospective husbands of librarians.

BOOK NOTES

Mrs. Ladd writes in to say that she hopes nobody will miss reading "Living with books" by Helen E. Haines. As the introduction says, the book is the outgrowth of courses in book selection and related subjects given at the Library School of the Los Angeles Public Library and the School of Librarianship of the University of California. It is one of the Columbia University Studies in Library Science. This is surely a model text-book, combining as it does, scholarship, enthusiasm for books and a beautiful style.

FROM THE "BULLETIN OF THE B.P.L." NOV.1935

Aanrud, Hans. Sidsel Longskirt and Solve Suntrup. Translated by Dagny Mortenson and M. W. Bianco. Illustrated by Ingrid and E. P. d'Aulaire.

Mrs. Dagny Mortenson Rennie was formerly on the staff of Eastern Parkway. Mrs. d'Aulaire is her sister. This book is reviewed in the "Library Journal" for Nov. 1st.

Ruth Peckham Tubby, formerly of Bj, is the translator of "The Golden Chick and the Magic Frying Pan," by Jeanne Chardon, from the French, published by Whitman, Chicago, as one of their "Junior Press Books."

The Library Journal for November 1st, contains an article by Irene Smith entitled "Reference Books for Children."

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The unsigned article on the Abernethy Library in Vermont, which appeared in the October number of "Among Ourselves" was contributed by Miss F. Margaret Rebenklau of Bedford Branch.

The anonymous "Lament for Leonarda" was NOT written by anyone at the Leonard Branch. Perhaps we should not say "anonymous," since, in view of its authorship, it was quite appropriately signed "Meow."

L

-o-O-o-

On entering her library one morning the branch librarian was asked to have some books shifted so that the wood-workers could continue with their cleaning. Some of the staff were called in and the shifting was done. On returning to the office the librarian heard one of the men remark in tones of great admiration, "They work, they do!"

"Who work?" asked the librarian.

"Than ladies do," replied the man. "Why, in five minutes they did what it would take us a whole day to do."

Bj

NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB

Many of the staff have lately received from me a letter of invitation to join the New York Library Club, and more letters will be sent out soon. I hope that Brooklyn will be able to report a fair quota of new members by January first, when the club will make up its membership directory. The New York Public Library and Queens Borough Public Library have already gotten large responses from their drive for new members.

According to President Jennie Flexner, the New York Library Club is the oldest library club in the country, this being its fiftieth year. We are fortunate in having such an organization for our local professional affiliations. Hereafter admission to its meetings and Saturday afternoon teas is by membership ticket, which is issued upon payment of one-dollar, the annual fee. Full details will befound in the letters addressed to non-members.

Irene Smith
Chairman for Brooklyn
New York Library Club
Membership Committee

-o-O-o-

Married - Madeline Rita Slower (Tn) to Francis Thomas McPartlin, November 23th, at Sag Harbor, N. Y.

Married - Lillian E. Abernethy (M) to Paul E. Wolverton

Born - To Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Cross (M), a daughter, November 4th, 1935.

-o-O-o-

Sarah A. Beard (Bj), gave a talk recently to the Business and Professional Women's Club of the Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn. Her subject was "Brownsville Children's Library and some of its oldest borrowers." Miss Thackray, who is a member of the club, brought a number of new books as suggestions for Christmas presents.

RESIGNATION OF MR. FROTHINGHAM

Two letters

November 21, 1935

My dear Mr. Frothingham:

The Staff Association has recently heard of your resignation from the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library necessitated by the state of your health. We cannot permit your long association with the staff to end without expressing our deep appreciation of all that you have stood for these many years.

You have given unsparingly of your valuable time and thought to the upbuilding of this institution. With steadfast purpose and straightforward action you have unswervingly upheld the best interests of the Brooklyn Public Library. Whenever the staff has called on you for help you have given it unsparingly and generously. Your work with the Boody Fund has been especially noteworthy.

The staff of the Brooklyn Library feels a deep sense of loss in relinquishing ties of many years standing. They will miss the many outstanding qualities displayed in your long years of trusteeship.

Deeply regretting the necessity for your retirement, the staff, through the Staff Association, hopes you will soon be restored to health and wishes you many pleasant years of active interests.

Respectfully,

Helen B. Hamlet, President,
Staff Association

Corinne Sheppard, Secretary
Staff Association

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4 December 1935

Dear Mrs. Hamlet:

Thank you very much for the resolutions of the Staff Association which you so kindly sent me. One of my life's regrets in resigning from the Library was that I should lose touch with the Staff with whom I have worked for so many years. They are an unusually fine body of women whom I was proud to serve in any way that I might. Please give them all my kindest remembrances and thanks.

Faithfully,

Theodore L. Frothingham

-o-O-o-

Miss Mary Tuttle is attending the course on modern fiction given by John Chamberlain at the New School of Social Research. Although an experienced writer and critic this is the first course of lectures Mr. Chamberlain has given and his technique is not yet perfect. On a recent evening Miss Tuttle found herself sitting beside a very attractive young woman whom she had noticed at previous lectures of the series. During a recess the two found themselves chatting together, discussing the lectures and the lecturer. Finally, after several other comments, the young woman somewhat irritably said: "I do wish he would repeat the questions so that we all might hear them."

Feeling by this time that the young person was a bit too critical Miss Tuttle said: "There's something about him, though, that I really like, don't you?"

"Why--yes--I do," answered the other, "You see--he's my husband."

Mr. Ralph M. Dunbar, formerly of the Brooklyn Public Library as Superintendent of Supplies, and as Superintendent of the Department of Traveling Libraries, has received a grant from the American Library Association for a Fellowship at the University of Chicago for 1935-36. Mr. Dunbar, who has been assistant librarian of Iowa State College, has taken as his subject: "The administrative control of university libraries in the United States."

Mrs. J. J. Healy (Louise Smibert) has moved from New Rochelle and is now living in New York.

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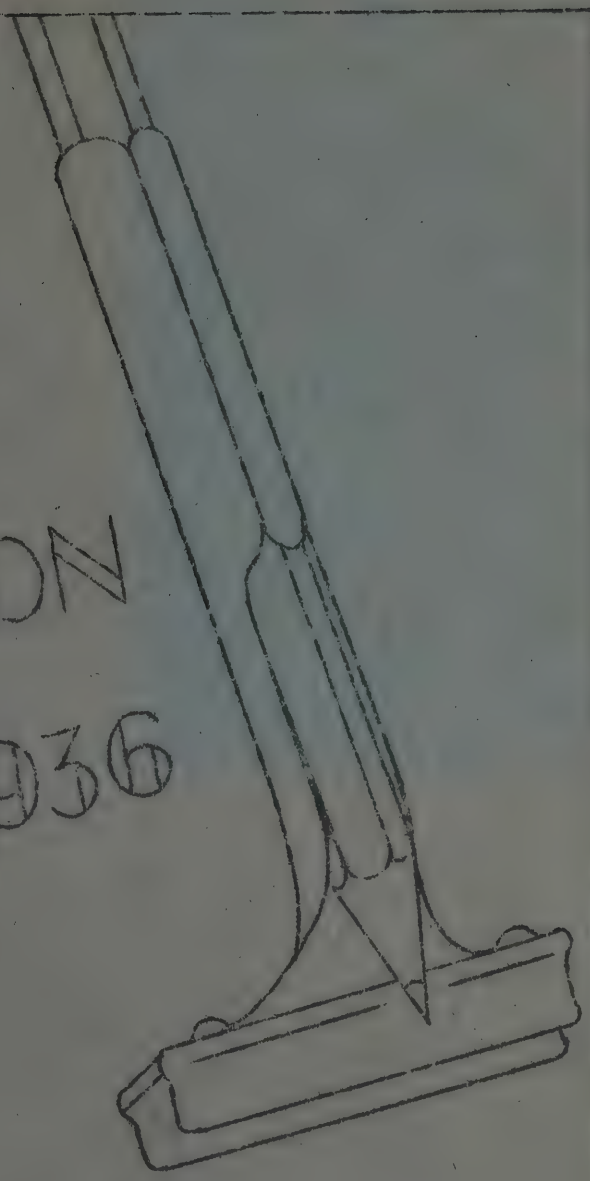
BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936



AMONG OURSELVES

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Adelaide A. Kennedy, Chairman (F)
Marjorie S. Ladd (Ep)
Alice F. Hale (K)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)
Marilla V. Williams (W)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)

VOLUME III JANUARY, 1936 NUMBER IV

GREETINGS FROM JUDGE GARVIN

As the year 1936 opens, with its responsibilities, its duties, its possibilities, I am availing myself of this pleasant opportunity of sending to all you members of the Staff my cordial good wishes and my complete confidence that I may rely upon your continued loyalty upon which I have come to depend and which I prize so highly.

May you all have a wonderful year and may our happy association together continue for many years to come.

Edwin L. Garvin

President of the Board of Trustees

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

On December 14th, Mayor LaGuardia announced the appointment of Lauson Stone and Henry A. Ingraham as members of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Mr. Stone is an attorney with offices at 150 Broadway and lives at 41 Garden Place, Brooklyn. He was born in New York City in 1904 and attended Harvard College and the Columbia University Law School. He is a son of Justice Harlan F. Stone of the United States Supreme Court.

The second appointee to the library board, Mr. Ingraham, is also an attorney. He is married, has four children and lives at 363 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn. He is a director and vice president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

BRIDGE REPORT A SUCCESS
UNITED COUNCIL PLANS BENEFIT

The results of the Tri-Borough bridge, sponsored by the United Staff Association, exceeded all expectations. On the first evening, 646 people came to play in the East Ball Room of the Hotel Commodore. On the second night 737 appeared, making a total of 1,383 for the two evenings.

The financial statement submitted by Miss Bess Fay Shipley, chairman, is as follows:

Receipts--

Tickets	$ 2,077.29
Prizes, candy, cigarettes, etc.	265.51
Total	2,342.80

Expenses

Hotel and tips	238.00
Prizes	149.57
Miscellaneous	25.07
Total	412.64
Net Income	$ 1,930.16

As was announced, the money was raised so that the Association may have working capital with which it will attempt to establish a fund for prior service in pensions. The Council has felt that we can begin this best by giving a benefit performance. The plan will be presented for approval to the members at a meeting of the Association next year.

This prior service fund probably needs some explanation. It has been pointed out to us very clearly that even if we are successful in entering into a pension scheme,

one hospital case from our group - see - what a protection the plan has already proved to be.

Marion E. Williams, Chairman,
Hospital Committee

DECEMBER MEETING OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

The December meeting of children's librarians, held at Midwood Branch, was made a very enjoyable occasion by the Midwood staff. Many of those attending had not seen the new quarters, and its Christmas trimmings gave it further attractions for the visitors.

Miss Hunt opened the meeting by introducing the branch librarian, Miss Tuttle, who cordially welcomed the more than fifty members. The meeting was then turned over to Miss Irene Smith for a discussion of a subject which warmly concerns children's librarians: rewriting the great classics of children's literature to bring them down to the new vocabularly scale. Last summer the appearance of the Thorndike Library stirred wide indignation, for book-lovers were stout in maintaining that no one has a right to tamper with a literary masterpiece. Thorndike's actual alterations of style and removal of vocabulary "obstacles" in Hawthorne's Wonder Book, Heidi, Pinocchio, and Anderson's Fairy Tales, were demonstrated by Mrs. Eleanore Clift, Miss Annie Jackson and Miss Winifred Jackson.

Miss Smith next read a report on subscription sets for children, containing comparative evaluations of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, World Book Encyclopedia, and Britannica Junior.

Miss Hunt conducted the rest of the meeting, taking up several special items and giving the usual notices. She commented upon the Book Week exhibits and upon the story telling reports made by the children's librarians after they had spent several months studying the approved story hour list. The final feature was an account given by Miss Smith of a Christmas shopping tour she made to the New York book stores where the largest number of children's books are sold.

Luncheon had been provided by a committee of children's librarians consisting of Mrs. Mary Nye as chairman, Betty Groves, and Dorothy Niebrugge, with great assistance from the Midwood staff. All of their arrangements were thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB

The New York Library Club is preparing a directory of its members, and those who join now will be listed therein. However, the time is short, so if you wish to belong to the club, please send your dollar at once to

Irene Smith
One Hanson Place
Membership Chairman
for Brooklyn

BOOKS I HAVE ENJOYED

Cather	My Antonia
Frost	Mountain interval
Hudson	Green mansions
Ibsen	Plays
Maeterlinck	Treasurers of the humble
Mann	Buddenbrooks
Smith	Outline of modern painting in Europe and America
Tagore	Gitanjali (Song offerings
Undset	Trilogy (Bridal wreath, Mistress of Husaby, Cross
Walpole	Fortitude

Marion E. Williams (Bu)

Grayson, David	The friendly road
Irving, R. L. G.	Romance of mountaineering
Lane, Rose W.	Let the hurricane roar
Stoddart, Charles	Shanks mare
Ward, F. K.	Plant hunting on the edge of the world
Wilson, E. H.	Plant hunting 2 v.

E. Christine Smith (Ad)

The article in the Library Journal for January 1, 1936, on the To the Editor page (page 3) entitled Creative Management by A. Beatrice Young, is another professional reminder for the New Year.

CHRISTMAS

Every branch was trimmed with Christmas wreathes, and special story hours, special exhibts, and luscious parties are heard of from all directions.

The Administration Department ave a surprise birthday party in honor of Mr. Connor on January 6th. A good time was had by all. (The apple-jack punch was delicious - and - did the music go round and round-???? They had flowers too.

The Rules Committee, having spent untold hours toiling, perspiring and (if the whole truth be confessed) arguing violently over the coming (How long coming?) "Revision," one or two members felt that a break was due. On the Saturday morning before Christmas the members entered an office transformed by candles, candy, a Christmas tree (very tiny) and a Santa Claus chimney from which trailed glittering silver ribbons.

Straightway all began pulling the silver cords and lo! mysterious packages emerged. Who shall picture the transports of delight as marvelous objects d'art (purchased at Woolworths, Kresge & Co's) came into the possession of impecunious librarians? In the midst of the hilarity, the Chief Librarian, on his rounds to see his people busily at work, came upon the scene. Diplomacy was equal to the occasion. The charming gifts drawn by the Chief dispelled any possible gathering frowns from disapproving brows.

At 9:20 most traces of the orgy had disappeared and the scene in "1802" had changed from one of Christmas mellowness to its usual "Peace! Conference" atmosphere of Saturday mornings.

The Brownsville Children's annual candlelight story-hour was held on Thursday, December 26th. The branch looked very gay with two Christmas trees, many candles and a grand open fire. About one hundred and twenty-five children enjoyed the hour with the librarians.

Shortly before Christmas, Irving celebrated the season by giving a tea for a few friends and former assistants. We hope our guests enjoyed it as much as we did.

'TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Mid paint pots and varnishes
Tho we may roam
As Christmas approaches
Ma calls children home.

In the whisk of an eye, the "J" room became
A Romp Room for all that Macon could claim.

The tree was all set by the inglenook fire
With lights all a-gleaming, for to see and admire.

They romped thro the mazes of "Beano", for prizes,
And selected their choice from an assortment of sizes.

A twinkling of toes 'neath a curtain was shown,
And guesses were rife as to who which did own.

Then they hied to the tables
And partook of good cheer,
And MA urged her children
To return every year.

(With apologies for mixed metres!)

New Utrecht had a Christmas party with a table beautifully set. We had place cards, favors, and plenty of good things to eat. Everyone was invited including the P.W.A. workers who had presents from the staff.

On Friday, December 27, the Prospect staff gave a Christmas tea, which was attended by about forty guests, including Mrs. Ferguson and members of the staff from other branches. The tea was served on the balcony which was very attractively decorated with pine boughs, holly and red candles. In the Children's room there was a large Christmas tree decorated in blue and silver. Refreshments consisted of sandwiches, cookies, cakes, tea, coffee and rum punch.

Sheepshead Bay
Branch B now
Coney Island

SHEEPSHEAD BY-THE-SEA

Sheepshead Bay was fortunate this Christmas in having Miss Barbara Smith of Brownsville Children's as a guest star for their story hour. Miss Smith entertained about forty alert youngsters with several charmingly told Christmas stories.

Before a crackling fire in a real brick fire-place, Miss Smith made giants and fairies and Santa Claus seem fascinatingly real. Each time Santa was mentioned in the stories the eager faces of the children would turn smilingly to the great red cardboard Santa Claus standing in a corner of the room, as if to welcome an old friend and include him in their merry-making.

Since Sheepshead Bay, alas, is unused to the luxury of a weekly story hour it brings their yearly story telling time an added novelty and excitement, shared alike by borrowers and staff. Many thanks to Mrs. De Gogorza and Miss Smith.

MISS BOIES'S CHRISTMAS READING

While bitterly cold and wintry weather prevailed on the night of December 20th, the setting for Miss Boies's reading of "The Other Wise Man" was one of warmth and Christmas Cheer. Lighted candles burned in each window-sill, and a tree, gleaming with vari-colored lights and silver icicles, formed a background for the story-teller.

Approximately 83 people were present, among whom were Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Eaton, Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library, who both spoke a few words in greeting.

In the afternoon of the same day, the Children's Room was overflowing with some 215 children, who sat in all available chairs, on tables, and on the floor while they heard the "Great Walled Country" told by Mrs. Stewart and the "Voyage of the Wee Red Cap", told by Miss Kling.

A surprise party and miscellaneous shower was given in honor of Mrs. Paul Wolverton of Montague, formerly Miss Lillian Abernethy of Brownsville, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Igor Akramoff, on the night of January 4, 1936. The fascinating games, delectable refreshments, surprise gifts, and last but not least, the new husband, created a pleasant and lasting memory of the happy occasion.

SUCCESS STORY

A merry hum of voices, fast and furious bidding, grand slams, no trumps, chess masterpieces, lost jigsaw puzzle fragments, dropped stiches in the baby's sweater, and the evening was under way. Why my dear! Didn't you attend the social event of the season? What do I mean? Why, the Tri-Borough Bridge of course.

At a committee meeting, one of the members remarked, "When the city builds a Tri-Borough bridge, that's news. And when the United Staff Association of our Library systems plan a Tri-Borough Bridge Party, that also is NEWS."

New York, Queens and Brooklyn turned out en-masse with friends and relatives, to support the Bridge Party held at the Commodore Hotel on December 9 and 10, 1935. Brooklyn forged ahead in ticket selling, much to the delight of the committee, who were rather dubious when offered 1000 of the 5000 tickets printed.

Monday proved to be Brooklyn night, with the majority of the prizes and raffles being won by Brooklynites. Miss Burdett of Macon won one of the door prizes, which proved to be ten dollars in the form of a brand new bill, and two of the raffles also went to her lucky numbers. Miss Faith Allen was another of the winners.

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300 new titles added to the Library in 1935, were in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Hebrew, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Latin, Serbian, Syriac, Slovakian, Swedish, Spanish, Yiddish.

Sylvia Robinson (Cd)

PERSONALS

Rumor - That Miss Bertha Renken (T), is engaged.

The Department of Library Extension is moving to 180 Lawrence Street about the first of February.

Mr. Leigh's (T), stamp club continues to flourish. Several children at Kings County Hospital received new stamp albums for Christmas, which considerably stimulated their interest. Any stamps sent to Mr. Leigh will be much appreciated by the children.

Miss Dorothy M. Thistlethwaite (P), has been granted a year's leave of absence to do some special work at Bryn Mawr. She will be with us until the first of February.

Bay Ridge is agog! Two borrowers are appearing on Broadway in what promises to be long runs!

Shirley Poirier, 9 years, who became famous as the Brooklyn Shirley Temple last spring, is now a rung or so up the ladder of success. She was one of the most agile of monkeys in Walter Hampden's "Achilles had a heel;" she played in "Let Freedom Ring," and now is very proud of being in Helen Hayes' new play, "Victoria Regina."

Miss Marie Burke, another borrower at Bay Ridge is in the cast of Sidney Kingsley's new play "Dead End."

An extract from Miss A. Mabel Barrow's Christmas letter to Brownsville, which we believe will be of general interest:

"This morning we woke to find a heavy fog, and knew it beforehand because of all the foghorns. It's really fun to lie and listen to them. One boat sounds like a claxon, another like a penny whistle, a third is crying 'Help!' and if the atmospheric conditions are right, each blast is echoed from the Ridge above us, while answering them at intervals is the Pt. Atkinson horn which says 'I'm drunk' and having repeated it six time, he finishes by a long draw "Ah-m-m-m-m-m-m drunk!. At any rate he lets them know his location, which of course is a help.

Sometime ago talking of the foghorns and the echoes which often prolong and blend with the next blast, a resident told us that a skillful captain can often pick up an echo (and so get his position), from a floating log. I thought it a 'tall tale', but later a Vancouver paper recorded the running aground near Alaska of a steamboat in a heavy fog, due, said the article, to the captain's being unable to get an echo of any kind by which to ascertain his whereabouts.

Fog is something else which has broken all records in British Columbia this year. Let me see - first there was the heavy snow fall of last January, followed by equally heavy rains, next the floods, then the late spring (it usually arrives in February), the cool summer (we thought both seasons just right!), the unprecedented freezing weather of November which finished the gardens (apparently they last fairly well till Christmas), and now the fog."

Vancouver, B.C. December 17, 1935

Mrs. Edward Saro of the New Rochelle Public Library, visited the Intermediate Department of Brownsville Children's recently. She is one of several on her staff taking a three months course in library work with the adolescent under Miss LeFevre of the Syracuse Library School.

A PARENT'S PROTEST TO PACIFIC

"I signed my name on two slips. If you think, I have nothing to do you are crazie. I have a lot of things on my mind, while you have nothing that is why you have the poor child running back and forth. I came there myself to get a card and you think it was a bank I came to rob you make a big fuss over nothin, I am as wild as can be."

We hasten to assure you that the "wild" person has been calmed and that the "poor child" has his card --- at last.

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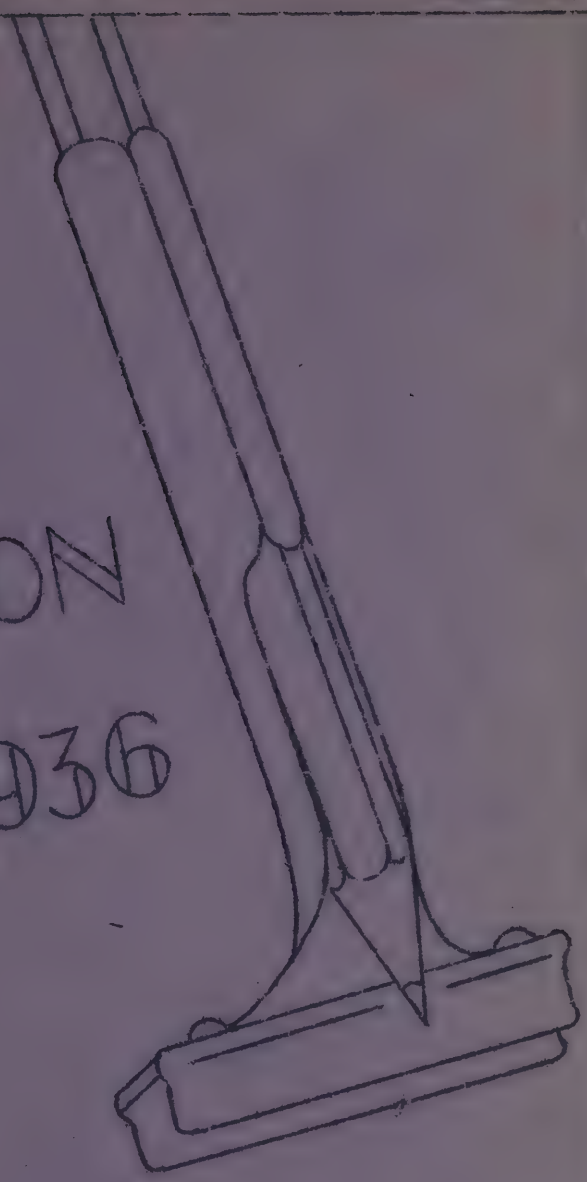
BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936



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VOLUME III MARCH, 1936 NUMBER VI

MESSAGE FROM JUDGE GARVIN

I should like the members of the Staff to know how much I appreciate the fine spirit which was displayed during Doctor Ferguson's absence. He has returned restored to health, and it is a great gratification to the Board of Trustees to realize that the work of the Library has been carried on during the Chief Librarian's absence, and under the direction of Mr. Connor, with so little impairment to the service. For this you members of the staff are responsible, and I am very grateful.

Sincerely yours,
Edwin L. Garvin

February 18, 1936

COVER CONTEST

The Staff Association again offers a prize of 5.00 for the best cover design for "Among Ourselves."

Designs may be of two types:- (1) In line only, suitable for tracing with a stylus on mimeograph stencil paper. (2) A lineolum block. Size: A rectangle 7 by 9 5/8 inches. Entries close May 1st, 1936.

SAVE THIS DATE

Sweet flowers, soft music and.....! What we are trying to say is that on March 29th - Sunday - we are holding a tea at the Towers Hotel, Clark Street near Willow. Be sure to jot the date down. Details as to the entertainment, etc. will follow shortly.

The Social Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 22 - Outdoor Committee sponsors party at Ice Carnival

Mar. 29 - Staff Association Tea. Towers Hotel.

Apr. 4 - N. Y. Library Club monthly tea. Town Hall.

Apr. 23 - Grade 2 & 3 meeting. Discussion of advisable uniformity for branch work. Will you please send suggestions to any member of the committee?
Committee:- Ruth Eastwood (F)
Faith Allen Faith Allen (Cr)
Evelyn Kirkland (M)
Helen Mills (T)
Corrinne Sheppard (Bj)

May 11-16-A. L. A., Richmond, Va.

THE O-J COLLECTION

One of the most interesting collections of books being gathered by our library is that of old-time juveniles: the 'O-J' collection, which is necessarily under lock and key at present in the Pacific Children's Room. It includes examples of readers, spellers, arithmetics, and books on morals. A recent exhibit in the glass-case showed six different editions of Cinderella, published in Albany, Philadelphia, Cooperstown, London and Yorkshire, the latest date given, being 1820. In the Union Catalogue these titles form a nice little catalogue all their own, under the heading 'Old-time books for children.'

The organization of this collection began with the purchase, some twelve years ago, of the Vail collection of about four hundred and forty books, and it now numbers over eleven hundred volumes. It covers

publications from 1789 to 1865. The additions have come by transfer from our branches, by gift, and by purchase from dealers and second-hand books stores.

As an aid to the selection of titles which we hope to secure sometime, we use the Rosenbach catalogue of Early American Children's books. The history of this catalogue is interesting. In 1900, Dr. Rosenbach fell heir to the collection of books gathered by his uncle, Moses Polock, who had been in the old book business. The valuable examples of early American juvenilia in the collection interested him and he added to them until he built up the finest collection of its kind in existence to-day. The catalogue is the result of his interest.

These books are becoming harder and harder to find but we get a thrill sometimes, when we find an item in the trash of a second-hand book store. We sometimes find one that is not in the Rosenbach catalogue.

Drop in at Pacific sometime and ask Miss Hart to let you see some of these O-J books. They make a very interesting and fascinating exhibit.

"Chas"

MISSING AT INVENTORY
By John H. Schutte

Without a doubt, one of the most interesting cases in the files of the Special Investigator was the Symonds-Schleifman case of 1932. Like most spectacular cases, its origin was purely through good fortune. Its successful conclusion ended the activities of a group of thieves preying upon the Duplicate Pay Collection.

One day in April, a young man, perhaps best described as a "stool-pigeon," confided to a librarian that a Meyer Symonds was stealing library books and had several in his home. As proof of his accusations, he presented a stolen volume which he claimed to have borrowed from Meyer. His real motive for divulging this information was not his public duty but a revengeful desire to see Meyer caught in the toils of the law for having punched him when he failed to return a borrowed book.

That afternoon a library investigator gained admittance to the Symonds home and seized fifty-four volumes of bright new D. P. C.'s in the clothes closet of Meyer's room. Somehow, word of the seizure was sent to Meyer who could not be located until 8 a.m. the next morning. In the meantime, directed by his mother to recover the books which he had given to friends, the boy spent the night gathering forty-three more volumes.

Although the Symonds boy insisted that he had no accomplices, it was finally learned that a Philip Schleifman spent a great deal of time in his company. A surprise visit to Schleifman's home found Philip still in bed and before he was fully awake, ninety-five additional volumes had been added to the case. A balance of twenty-eight volumes was surrendered by the boys themselves on their numerous visits to administration. The final score stood at two hundred and twenty-one volumes valued at $475.00.

Meyer was seventeen years of age and a high school student, while Philip was twenty and completing his first year of college. As explained by the boys, Philip planned the thefts and stood guard while Meyer smuggled the books out of the library in the waistband of his trousers. No legal action was filed against the boys. Perhaps the most amazing fact of the case was that the entire collection was stolen from only two branches in two weeks' time.

UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION

At a meeting on January 16, 1936, the United Staff Association authorized the Council to make plans for a benefit performance for a prior service fund.

Since then, Mr. Polk, President of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library; Judge Garvin, President of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library; and Mr. Groh, President of the

Board of Trustees of the Queensboro Public Library, met with members of the Council of the United Staff Association to discuss the problems involved in the questions of pensions. As a result of this conference, the plans for a benefit at this time have been deferred until later, so that the Trustees may have time to discuss with some of the City officials various questions which must be considered. Meanwhile, the money raised from the bridge parties has been put out at interest, pending further developments which are expected as a result of the conference to be held in the near future.

Grace A. Conway,
President

NOTE FROM DR. SONDHEIMER

"The 15-minutes recess for WPA workers has been discontinued."

BOOKS I HAVE ENJOYED

Aldrich	White bird flying
Cronin	Hatter's Castle
Jacks	Ethical factors of the present crisis
Johnson	Now in November
Leonard	Tools of to-morrow
Lincoln	February Hill
Nathan	One more spring
Travers	Mary Poppins
Wain	House of Exile

Lillian M. Foley (G)

What form of name do you use?

The Library of Congress enters books by Claire Spencer, John Evans, and Mabel Dodge Luhan under the following forms:

Spencer, Claire
Evans, John
Luhan, Mrs. Mabel (Ganson) Dodge

One would never guess from these three forms that the three persons were related, either by blood or by marriage.

According to "Authors Today and Yesterday," Mabel Dodge Luhan was born Mabel Ganson. In her early twenties she was married to Carl Evans, by whom she had one son, John Ganson Evans. Her first husband died, and in 1902 she married Edwin Dodge, from whom she was separated some ten years later, and subsequently divorced. In 1918 she went to New Mexico with her next husband, Maurice Sterne, from whom too she was later divorced. Thereupon she lived with and finally married (in 1923) Antonio Luhan, a Taos Pueblo Indian.

John Evans, the novelist, is doubtless the John Ganson Evans referred to above, because his present publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, informs us that he is the son of Mabel Dodge Luhan. Furthermore, Mr. Knopf tells us that he is married to Claire Spencer, the author of "Gallows Orchard."

LITERARY NOTES

In the February issue of "Scribner's," Arthur Hobson Quinn, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania, says: "One of the most interesting elements in the lives of great men has been the records of the books they have read, especially in their formative years. The mute testimony of the Librarian's records at the University of Virginia, for example, shows how wide were Poe's interests in that one short year. But the modern library's card system, which destroys the record when it is completed, will make it impossible for the future historian to know what was read by the great men who are now going through college, and there are more of them than is generally supposed!

The house-journal of Chapman & Hall, publishers, of London, the first number of which recently appeared, is called "Between Ourselves." Another unconscious tribute to "Among Ourselves" and the Brooklyn Public Library. It will be recalled that when "Among Ourselves" was first projected, back in 1917, the choice of title was reduced to the two alternative ones:- "Between Ourselves" and "Among Ourselves." The latter won out.

L.N.F.

PERCENTAGES: PRIDE: PROFESSIONAL SPIRIT:

On March first of this year, 40 per cent of the professional members of the B.P.L. staff had paid their dues to the New York Library Association in 1935 or 1936. In 1935, 59 per cent of our staff were paid up members of the N.Y.L.A. Why the difference?

In 1933, Dr. Ferguson, our own chief, was President of the Association. I suppose we supported him. We had pride in our own. Today, Mr. Frederick G. Melcher is President. Although not a librarian, Mr. Melcher stands high in a business which is very closely allied to us. We ought to be glad that he would consent to serve as President. Let's get behind him and show him that there is still a fine loyalty in Brooklyn. Let's show him that librarians can stand together. In 1933, Brooklyn's support of the N.Y.L.A. was a byword throughout the state. Let's make it true again today.

The annual dues are one dollar. With the few thousand dollars that the Association receives from dues every year, the Council does a splendid work for the libraries throughout the state. We owe it to ourselves and to the profession in general to support the State Association. It so happens that the greater part of the professionally trained librarians in the state are located right here in New York City. We cannot go back on our brethren upstate by refusing our support. They need it and our dues are a very substantial evidence of it.

The annual meeting this year will be at Lake Mohonk. Plan to attend, but first pay your dues.

You will receive shortly a sheet which shows just when every member of your staff last paid their dues. If you are behind in payment, two dollars (for 1935 and 1936) will reinstate you. If you have never joined, do it now. Try to have your branch 100 per cent.

You can forward the money to me or you can send it direct to Miss Ross at the Grosvenor Library, Buffalo.

Only do it. Keep up our reputation.

E. Christine Smith
for the Membership Committee

AMONG THOSE PRESENT

Familiar faces from the Home Borough of Brooklyn were recognized at four tables in the banquet room of the Hotel Pierre where the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner of the New York Library Club was held on the evening of February twentieth.

Contrary to the appalling tendency among library folk to economize and promote informal affairs these days, the Library Club Council, in an unprecedented burst of enthusiasm and extravagance, voted to celebrate such an auspicious occasion in the grand manner -- formally, at one of the swankiest hostelries in town. A delicious dinner, faultlessly served, was topped off with that Epicurean tour de force -- ice cream molds with electrical effects.

President Jennie M. Flexner, opened the speechifying part of the program with a few gracious words, and read a number of telegrams and letters from distant members of the Club who were unable to be present. Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation, friend and counselor or librarians, served as toastmaster for the occasion. Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, and President of the Club in 1891 and two later years, talked about "the past fifty years," recalling many highly entertaining professional episodes in the lives of such famous past members as Melvil Dewey, Mary Wright Plummer, and John Cotton Dana. The second speaker, Dr. Louis R. Wilson, President of the American Library Association, spoke about "The next fifty years," outlining a challenging and formidable array of future library objectives. In fact, some of the younger members began to feel a bit apprehensive about future responsibilities - while a few of the older members doubtless felt relieved by the reflection that perhaps they would not be confronted with many of the prodigious responsibilities of the future. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that the occasion was a notable success.

LIBRARY WRITING

The Professional Committee has received the following announcement:

Library writing, a nonresident course in Abstracts, Annotations, Letters, Library Publicity, Magazine Articles, and Reports.

Prepared and conducted by Mr. D. Henry Herrick, M.A., and experienced university teacher of writing and library school training. Library Writing teaches both how to write - and what to write - for a library.

Divided into twenty assignments to be chosen from a total of forty, "Library Writing" provides for specialization and for adaptation to current needs. And individual method of instruction facilitates the preparation of assignments. Concrete library problems give moreover, an orientation into librarianship. Fee, with provision for monthly payments, $18.

Registrations are invited. A card to Taylor School of Writing, Box 433, Berkeley, California, will bring full information.

ADULT EDUCATION

This year two of the branches of the Brooklyn Public Library have been asked to aid in the Experimental Reading Study which is being carried on by the Adult Education Department of Teachers College.

At a tea given in the attractive rooms of the Women's Faculty Club in January, Mrs. Morriss explained the plan and asked the cooperation of the branch libraries in the work with their neighboring Evening Elementary Schools.

The object of the study is the selection and preparation of appropriate reading material for men and women whose educational opportunities have been limited.

All who have tried to supply to these borrowers, books simply written, which at the same time present their material with adult appeal, know the discouragements. Frequently the only books available are those classified as juvenile, indicating on their title pages that they are intended for the young people. It is in the hope that the present experiment may contribute to an improved book collection for this group of potential readers, that the Pacific Branch has agreed to aid in the work with the evening school at the former P. S. 15, on 3rd Avenue and State Street.

The Extension Department has supplied a traveling library case and helped us to secure many of the books on the list which forms the basis of this year's study. Other titles have been sent by the publishers, who are also interested in this subject. Once a week the class is visited by the librarian and after a short book talk, the students select books for home reading. These are later discussed in class as a part of oral English, and brief book notes are written by each student.

Needless to say, we are hoping that one of the by-products of the experiment will be added members for the library.

Several other branches are cooperating with the People's Institute in a similar project.

OUR HOBBIES

The Junior Librarians are aiming to make enthusiasm fashionable.
The Voice of Experience among librarians has been trying to vocalize the vocation for lo! these many years; our ambition is to activate you into airing your avocation.
We have reason to think that the hobbies and handicrafts and collections of the staff are many and varied and interesting. After all these are the things that give us a beneficent balance: my collection of Old Valentines, yours of Brooklyn prints, B.D.M.'s collection of dedications from books. Or in the creative line, A.B.C.'s newspaper anecdotes, R.J.M.'s informal essays and F.B.G.'s stabs at writing the short, short story.
Not to mention the very fine collections of foreign dolls, Czechoslovakian embroideries, and Indian handwork that have

come into being as an avocation hangover from a vacation.
Confide to "Among Ourselves" some of these for our edification and inspiration!.
Who knows? Some one, inheriting an old homestad may find a garretful of junk. Junk to them but treasures to you. And if your avocation is openly listed in our editorial offices a "swap" or a more dignified donation might result.

A.F.H.

EXHIBITS

The Williamsburgh Branch is having an exhibition of foods, cooking, and household economics. The Children's Museum has cooperated by lending charts of various food industries with samples of the foodstuffs in the many processes of refinement.

The exhibit is grouped around a miniature night club, a Colonial kitchen, a drawing room set for a buffet supper, and a small "Nancy" who is visiting us from the Children's Room. The exhibit has received a great deal of favorable comment from the public.

Mapleton has had a very interesting Boy Scout exhibit. A local scout troup displayed handicraft in the two Library windows. This exhibit has attracted a great deal of attention and a number of requests for membership in their organization have resulted.

Through the courtesy of their teacher, Mrs. Gibbons, the opportunity class of P.S. 54 has loaned Bedford a unique exhibit, designed to illustrate the life and customs of the American Indian. The children made intricate models of tepees, hand looms, bead frames and a realistic pueblo village. Colorful pieces of pottery, woven articles, and a marionette made of crepe paper, add to the interest of the exhibit.

SUCCESS TO THE ROCHESTER STALKER!

The Staff Association of the Rochester Public Library has sent us a copy of their new publication, the "Staff Stalker." They say "'Among Ourselves', your staff paper we found a great help in deciding what form and what contents such a paper should have."

When are we flying?

Many of the staff were enthusiastic over Mr. Nourse's suggestion to the Outdoor Committee concerning a Dirigible ride.

It has been found that this dirigible only operates in the summer time. Accordingly nothing can be done about it at present, but we shall look forward to the possibility next summer.

Outdoor Committee

PERSONALS

The excitement of moving the Department of Library Extension has been quite eclipsed by the sudden announcement of the impending marriage of one of the staff

Christina L. Davis is to be married to Howard Line Putnam of Worcester, Mass., on March 16th. After a short trip they will reside at 36 Crooke Avenue.

Mapleton staff gave a farewell luncheon for Mrs. Margaret C. Hiller, who has gone to Philadelphia to live. Special guests for the occasion were Miss Schwegler, of Kg, Miss Haseloff and Miss Johnson of Bh. We had a very pleasant time although regretting the loss of our children's librarian.

Mr. Arthur W. Covert has been appointed to our staff as a Special Assistant to the Chief Librarian and will continue the work begun by Mr. Surguy who resigned some time ago.

Miss Bertine Weston was a recent luncheon guest at the Williamsburgh Branch. Miss Weston, who is Editor of "The Library Journal," is a former Williamsburgh staff member.

On February 19, Miss O'Gara of Williamsburgh spoke to a group of thirty principals, at a meeting with the District Superintendent, at Public School 50.

The talk was on the mutilation of library

books with special reference to scrap-book pictures, and the principals were much impressed by the great amount of damage done to our diminishing non-fiction collections. Some agreed that it was time to do away with scrap-books altogether.

The fourth regular meeting of the Girls' Reading Club, which was organized in January at the Bedford Branch by Miss Burns, was held on February 27th, with an attendance of twenty-one members. On the program for this meeting was an election of officers, the entire procedure being conducted by the girls themselves. The girls have shown a keen interest in the new club and are eager to cooperate and to make the venture a successful one.

DIED - February 13th at Bound Brook, N. J. Mrs. Berkeley McDowell, mother of Grace E. McDowell (Ep)

NAMES

From Bay Ridge Registration File:-

Hugh Shivers
Virginia Ham
Erna Hamburger
Ida Takaroff

Bedford's application file has revealed that the following celebrities have cards at that branch:

Herbert C. Hoover
Oliver Wendell Holmes
Rockwell Kent
Paul Horgan
LLoyd Douglas
John Henry
Marilyn Miller
Prince Albert
Queen Isabella
George and Mary Washington
Bettie Black Herring
Philip Morris

WATCH YOUR STEP

In the "New Statesman and Nation" for February 1, 1936, G.W. Stonier is made to say that "the stones in the river are like porposies."

NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB

This, the last membership notice of the year, is just to mention that persons who join now are in good standing for the 1936-37 club year, or until June 30, 1937. The April meeting is going to be especially interesting, with a musical program everyone will enjoy. The teas at the Town Hall Club on the first Saturday in each month have become quite an attraction too, and make a membership card more than ever worth having.

Irene Smith
Membership Chairman for Brooklyn

LIBRARY BONERS

Request at Mapleton -
"Librarian, have you 'Mutiny on the balcony?'"

Borough Park reports a small boy who wanted "10,000 kinks in the sea."

A girl with a copy of "Options" by O. Henry asked "Is this a good book on economics?"

"May I have 'In memory of the people' by Epstein?"
The catalog reveals the fact that we do not have the book.
"I am not sure of the author, do you know whether the book is by Epstein?"
"The United States Catalog lists neither author or title."
"That's too bad, all I know about the author is that he also wrote 'Ghosts.'"

"'The Hoosier Schoolboy' was preserved for me."

"Please, missis, kin I have a new card? Mine is exhausted."

"May I have my card please? I put it in storage about six months ago."

The horseback-riding classes which were discontinued during the winter will start again on April 1st. Anyone who has had a few lessons is welcome to join us.

Outdoor Committee

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MAR 5 1968
UNIVERSITY OF ALL

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936

AMONG OURSELVES

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Adelaide A. Kennedy, Chairman (F)
Marjorie S. Ladd (Ep)
Alice F. Hale (K)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)
Marilla V. Williams (W)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)

VOLUME III | APRIL, 1936 | NUMBER VII

CALANDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 23 - Grade 2 & 3 meeting

Apr. 25 - Regional Library Institute - Queens Borough Public Library, 10 A. M.

Apr. 28 - N. Y. Library Club meeting - McDowell Club, 8:15 P.M.

May 1 - Cover contest closes

May 11-16 - A. L. A. Richmond, Va.

COVER CONTEST

S. O. S. - Artists, do you realize that May 1st is the closing date for the cover design contest? The prize is $ 5.00, and the winning design will grace our cover for 1936-37. Submit as many entries as you wish. The field is still open.

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF ATTENDING THE A. L. A.

Ad - Dr. Milton J. Ferguson, Louis M. Nourse
Cd - Mabel Horton, Sylvia Robinson, Anna E. Shaw, Mary V. Wallis
T - Mary J. Thackray
Br - Elizabeth A. Gray
Bo - Alice M. Tuthill, Jean L. Ross, Hope R. Swain
Bj - Sarah A. Beard, Lois B. Ross, Corinne Sheppard
Cs - Blanche J. Urquhart
Ca - Mary U. Dillon
Cp - Mildred A. Rice
Ci - Henrietta G. Tuttle, Mary E. Collins
C - Emma K. Boyd
D - Isabel L. Henderson, Marjorie Cowles
E - Louise M. Hauer
Ep- Marjorie S. Ladd
F - Elsie D. Purcell, Thelma E. Smith, Adelaide A. Kennedy
G - Florence A. Winner
Kg- Edith E. Schwegler, Theresa Diamond
Ir- Helen P. Bolman
Ma- Dorothy Niebrugge, Mildred V. Curry, Miriam F. Rankin
M - Ada J. Cobb
Pa- Lila G. Hart
P - Madge E. Hincher, Ruth B. Ferguson
Sr- Mildred A. Dabney

AN ADVENTURE IN STUDY

Several years ago, my family and I were walking on the streets of Boston browsing among the stands of the second-hand book stores. Our attention was attracted by a quaint looking volume, waterstained, with title page missing, and otherwise dilapidated, but obviously old. It was early English judging by the "Contents" page. It said "Passions of the Minde" and the price on the cover was $1.50. We decided that the word "Minde" alone was worth this amount and so the book was purchased.

Several years elapsed and many things happened. This winter the present writer was taking a course in bibliography conducted by Miss I. G. Mudge, during which the subject of rare books came up. The "P.W." thought of the old volume and spoke of it. Midd Mudge whose "minde" is always open for everything new and unusual offered to use the book as a class problem (Identification and evaluation.)

Identification was easy. "Watt - Bibliotecа Britanica" under the subject of

"passions" yielded the author - Thomas Wright and the date - 1600. The second part was harder - Auction sale catalogs and "Price currents" had to be used. Finally "Book Price Current" for the 1928 disclosed that this edition has only one recorded copy, The Bodleian, and gave the price as £ 26!

Thus an early English book travelled over oceans and continents for three centuries to land at last in my hands.

___Igor Akramoff (M)

THE GREEKS HAD A USE FOR IT
What R. Wordsworth?

Gay yellow pad in the spring, Tra la,
Appears on my desk so dull,
What shall I use thee for my sweet?
Not scratchings or I'll get !!!

If I write a poem to my love, 'twould
be ephemeral;
Must I then write a solemn dirge, alack
for records archival?

I long to use thee little pad,
But fear official censure,
How can I strike the Golden Mean
And find out what ye'r meant for?

Co. M.

REGIONAL LIBRARY INSTITUTE

The regional Library Institute, sponsored by the University of the State of New York, is to be held this year at the Queens Borough Public Library on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Institute is planned especially for the librarians of Greater New York, Westchester County and Long Island. Librarians from other near-by towns are cordially invited to attend as are all persons who are interested in library service.

The general subject which has been selected for the Institute is: "How to reach the non-user of the library." The topic chosen for discussion at the morning session is: "How to obtain, prepare, and use unbound and other inexpensive material." In the afternoon, the topic will be "How to make the public library-conscious by means of radio programs."

Among the speakers will be Lyman L. Bryson, well known for his interest in adult education, and Thomas L. Stix, radio manager for Hendrix Van Loon. Frederic G. Melcher will bring greetings from the New York Library Association.

Jessie G. Cornall,
Chairman
Library Institute of the University
of the State of New York

RESTORATION OF SALARY CUTS
DEMANDED BY UNITED COUNCIL

A resolution demanding restoration of salary cuts suffered in the circulation department has been adopted by the Council of the United Staff Association and sent by Miss Grace A. Conway, president, to Mayor LaGuardia, the presidents of the five boroughs, the controller, the director of the budget and to other city officials, and to heads of the boards of trustees of the three library systems. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the salary cuts imposed in 1933 on all city-paid employees were stated to be a means of meeting an emergency in the city's finances and were excused by the generally lowered living costs of that period; and

Whereas, the salaries then imposed have remained fixed for four years, despite a continued increase in living costs; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Council of the United Staff Association of the Public Libraries of the City of New York feels justified in demanding the restoration of the salary schedules to the 1932 level, and in requesting that provision be made at the earliest possible moment for salary increases which have been fully earned and long overdue.

THE SMITH SAGA: A DRAMA IN TWO SCENES

Mrs. Smith came to the library
To confess that she had lost a book.

The very newest book by Warwick Norris
"So Blue the Violet"
Mrs. Smith was sorry. She said so and
"How much?"
The librarian went away and looked it up
In the Cumulative Book Index
Which was the right place to look.
She came back to Mrs. Smith
"Two fifty", she said.
The Smith eyebrows went up.
"Two fifty?" said Mrs. Smith.
"Two fifty" repeated the librarian.
There was a moment of silence.
"Isn't that the same as the book store price?" she asked.
"Yes" said the librarian
And fear entered into her for she was afraid of
The things that Mrs. Smith might say next.
But she need not have worried.
Mrs. Smith was not a person who liked to start a scene.
She was rather on the style of one Casper Milquetoast.
After all, she had lost the book.
She couldn't prove that she was being overcharged.
So she fumbled in her bag and produced the two-fifty.
The librarian took it, said "Thank you very much",
Wrote things on various slips and cards, put the
Money away, and that was that.

SECOND AND LAST ACT

Now you must know, dear reader, that the Smith Family
Lived on a very careful budget.
So that night at dinner, Mr. Smith looked at the table
And said:
"What's this? Mutton? Tonight is steak night!"
"Yes," said Mrs. Smith, "but I just couldn't afford steak this week."
"How come?" asked Mr. Smith who felt that he had
A right to know what happened to his hard earned money.
Mrs. Smith told Mr. Smith about the lost book.
"I'm sorry dear," said Mrs. Smith, "but I must have left it in the subway."
"Well, don't let it getcha down," said Mr. Smith.
He was a reasonable man.
"But how much did you have to pay for it?"
Mrs. Smith told him that too.
"Two fifty? You paid them two-fifty?" he cried.
"Y-y-yes," said Mrs. Smith, perceiving from her husband's tone that there was an error somewhere.
In truth there was. Mr. Smith got around more than Mrs. Smith and knew a lot of odd facts.
"Did they say that the book cost them that much?"
"I didn't ask," Mrs. Smith was forced to admit.
"You should have. I'd like to know what they would have said. Because," Mr. Smith went on, "they don't have to pay full price for books."
Mrs. Smith's feelings and color rose, both scarlet.
"They don't?"
"You bet your life they don't!" said Mr. Smith with equal feeling.
"I know a guy in the book business. All schools, libraries, colleges and what not, get big discounts on what they buy."
"Then how much do you think they really paid for it? asked Mrs. Smith.
"Not more than a dollar seventy-five." said Mrs. Smith.
Visions went swifty thru Mrs. Smith's mind. Such as
A new paid of stockings
A finger wave in her hair so Mr. Smith would think she still looked pretty.
New towels or new glasses.
Some things badly needed in the kitchen.
Not to mention the steak that night.
"Well, of all things!" she said slowly, after a while.
"You're a sucker," said Mr. Smith.
"I guess I am," Mrs. Smith admitted.
And that, dear reader, is the end of this little play and also the end of the good will of the Smith family toward The Public Library.

A DIFFERENT STORY: A DRAMA IN ONE SCENE WITH AN EPILOGUE

But when Mr. Brown lost a book and came to the library to offer to pay for it, he began to argue.
No Milquetoast, he.
"Two-fifty" said Mr. Brown. "Are you sure?"
"Yes," said the librarian.

"But I can buy it cheaper in Macy's," said Mr. Brown.
The librarian knew he could because she sometimes bought her own books there.
"Did the library pay two-fifty for this book?"
Reader, the librarian hesitated, I blush to admit,
Between the Truth - and a Lie.
If she lied and said that the library did, a fine opinion Mr. Brown would have of the Library's intelligence that it should go around paying book-store prices for books when anybody knew that educational agencies got discounts on things, and if they didn't, could go to Macy's anyhow.
So - we breath again - the librarian told the truth.
"No." she said.
"And yet you expect me to," said Mr. Brown. "Why?"
The librarian told him a lot of reasons, Things about extra work caused by lost books. Increased prices in some books after time passes. Strict rules to enforce payments.
None of these seemed to affect Mr. Brown.
"I tell you," said Mr. Brown. "I will go to Macy's and buy a copy of this book which is so brand new that the price couldn't possibly have changed and I will bring it back to you."
"No." Gulped the librarian who was almost in tears.
Mr. Brown was getting the idea.
"Well, I will give you the money that the book costs at Macy's and the library can buy it."
"No," said the librarian.
"I see," said Mr. Brown. "The Library doesn't really want me to replace this book. Why, I don't know. But it is all very clear. Very well, I will not replace it."
And Mr. Brown left the library and the library was left without a book.
One day Mr. Brown who knew politicians very well, heard something about pensions for librarians.
"Pensions?" said he, and he burst out laughing. "Say, they're safe as long as they're tied down to those mausoleums they work in. But give them pensions so they can run around loose in the streets? Ha, ha, Haa!!"
And the politician laughed too.

A FANTASY

When Mr. Jones lost a book, he too told the library about it. It was a very old book, so very old that it was out of print. It had cost the library forty cents but when it came to costing Mr. Jones something, no one knew how much. Book order office was inclined to wash its hands of the matter. Advice ran high and low.
"If anybody wanted it as a collector's item, it would be priceless, said one.
But there was no evidence that it was wanted.
"If we were to try to replace it," said another, "we would have to spend a great deal of money in advertising and search."
But no one wanted to replace it. For a long time, no one knew what to do.
If they have decided, I have not heard, even to this day.

A MOTHER'S STORY

Now we come to Mrs. Black who also lost a book.
A book about parents and children which had cost the library $3.65.
And alas, she had not told the library that she had lost it.
We shall soon see why.
So her bill went up promptly to $7.30, even under the old ruling.
But one day Mrs. Black came into the library and confessed the full extent of her sins.
And the librarian told her how much her sins would cost.
"Seven dollars and thirty cents!" said Mrs. Black, "Why I know that that book never cost that much!"
"No," said the librarian, "But you are being charged overdues too."
"I know the whole matter should have been attended to before this, but I was very busy."
The librarian took this with a grain of salt. People were always saying that.
Mrs. Black got the idea that she wasn't being believed.
"I was busy because I was going to have a baby." She went on after a moment. "Then I was busy having it. And since then I have been awfully busy taking care of it."

The librarian remained helpless and Mrs. Black grew a little sarcastic.

"It was my first baby," she explained. "Maybe when I have the next one I won't forget about my library books."

"I admit that you have a perfectly legitimate excuse," said the librarian.

("You'd better,") said the mother to herself.

"But I can't do anything about your fine, even so," the librarian told her.

"Well, I can," said Mrs. Black, "I can refuse to pay it and I will. I would be very glad to replace the book but if you'd rather have no book and a bad debt of seven dollars and thirty cents, than a good new book and a borrower who thinks you have some sense, why, the choice is yours." So Mrs. Black left.

The librarian left the desk. She felt very blue and helpless.

BOOKS I HAVE ENJOYED

Lampson	Laughter out of the ground
Lofts	I met a gypsy
Gibbs	England speaks
Roberts	For authors only
Peattie	Almanac for moderns
Knittel	Doctor Ibrahim
Russell	In praise of idleness
Prokosch	The Asiatics
Van Loon	Air-storming
Field	Time out of mind
Barnes	Edna his wife

Helen B. Hamlet (Bo)

Not my ten favorite books
but
Ten among my favorite books

Maughan	Gentleman in the parlour
Hudson	Far away and long ago
Rölvaag	Giants in the earth
Cather	Death comes for the Archbishop
James	Portrait of a lady
Undset	Kristin Lavransdatter
Bennett	Old wives' tale
Burke	Wind and the rain
Trollope	Chronicles of Barsetshire

Faith L. Allen (Cr)

VACATION

Vacation time is almost upon us. Where are you going? Is it by boat? The nearer cruises are to Norfolk, Nova Scotia, Labrador, Bermuda. A little farther and you visit Florida or the Caribbean. Then Mexico, South America or Panama.

Will you cross the Atlantic? Cruise the North Cape or in the Mediterranean? Or motor thru the British Isles, or tramp the Bavarian Alps, or venture into the Soviet? Does history call you to Rome, Greece or Palestine?

Or are you going by land this year? Today one can choose train or bus-and one may the lucky owner of a car. On land one may go north to New Hampshire, Maine, Gaspe, west to Niagara, and the Great Lakes, to the National Parks, or on to the Rockies and the western ocean. And southward there is Florida, the Dam sites, and Louisiana.

Some staff member has visited all these places and will delight to give you pointers on the land of your choice.

And here is News for the sports lover, the mountain lover and above all the horse lover: Inviting word has come from a western ranch on the Continental Divide just south of Glacier Park. A guide who outfitted and led one of the pack-trips which Miss Thackray enjoyed several years ago has written that he has been made manager of a private ranch whose owners are permitting him to run it this summer as a Dude ranch. He promises lots of good horses and all the other good things that go with a ranch vacation.

The now numerous B. P. L. staff members who have become ranch enthusiasts, after enjoying the delights of Holm Lodge, Wyo., may be interested in this new place in Montana as its proximity to Glacier Park makes it possible to combine a trip to the Park and a stay at the ranch. Miss Thackray at Library Extension will be glad to give anyone further information.

Speaking of HOBBIES: If anyone goes to the Texas Centennial Fair in Dallas will they please send me a postcard from the

Fair with a three-cent Texas Centennial stamp on it. I should be very grateful.
E. Christine Smith (Ad)

MEETING OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

Miss Constance Lindsay Skinner, author of many pioneer and Indian stories for young people, was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of children's librarians held March 26th at Pacific Branch. As usual, a business session occupied the first hour. In the interval between it and Miss Skinner's arrival at 10:15, several visitors came in, including Mr. Nourse and Mr. Covert.

Miss Skinner grew up at an Indian fur trading post in British Columbia. Her early experiences explain the background of her stories, and make her an expert on Indian customs. She gave an eloquent defense of adventure tales, which child psychologists and "childless leaders of parent organizations" like nowadays to bar from children's reading. The foolish fear that ideas stirring to the pulses will conflict with the rules of diet has given red-blooded hero stories a bad reputation in some educational circles, but not among children's librarians.

"Adventure stories are the first stories of the world," said Miss Skinner. "They date back to the stone age when for amusement sake and for moral reasons the men of the tribe rehearsed the thrilling, exciting experiences of the day, stressing the bravery displayed. Thus courage and joy, the two great fundamental needs of the world, gained recognition."

TEA AT THE TOWERS

The B. P. L. Staff Association gave a delightful tea on Sunday, March 29th, at the Towers Hotel.

The warm spring-like day brought out ninety-seven people, and we were honored to see among them Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Dr. Brown and Judge and Mrs. Garvin.

T. S. Stribling proved his ability as a speaker to those who were already familiar with him as an author. It was indeed a pleasure to have him with us in person.

Vocal selections were given by Miss Margaret Hawkins, a member of the Russian Art Co., who possesses a voice of rare quality.

A friendly chat with friends not often seen ended a perfect afternoon.

FROM ONE SELF TO ANOTHER

Remember how you and I were talking last week about the personnel of the Brooklyn Public Library and I told you what a swell crowd (newspaperman vernacular) they all are and how you asked me to write a few stix on that subject and how I promised to pound it out for you (also newspaperman parlance) that very day, and as you know I didn't do it and the reason is because I slipped and broke my ankle in three places, that being to my mind doing the job in grandiose style, and they carried me off to Long Island College Hospital, where after x-rays and what have you they encased my right limb in a cast which weighs at least fifty pounds and told me that I would have to stay in bed for at least six weeks, giving me visions of someone else holding my job when I got back, because I couldn't expect the publicity campaign which had got going in fine style to stop just because I couldn't do the work, and resulting in a two hour argument between the doctors and myself after which they agreed to allow me to go home and hang my broken leg to the chandelier and work a typewriter at my side which I am doing at the moment without any considerable leg pain and great mental comfort, and to report to the hospital once a week for new casts and maybe a little foot twisting, during which time I hope they will scratch my toes which are very itchy and at which I cannot get, but which doesn't matter so much as long as I can continue to get copy out to the newspapers who have promised to cooperate with me, and as long as the staff continue to give me the same excellent support in news leads, which I am sure they will and

which leads to the conclusion that I still think they are a swell lot of folks and that I have just completed the world's longest and most rambling sentence.

Arthur Covert

WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Life Extension Institute, New York, extends to Librarians the regular physical examination at the rate of $6.00 per person provided there is a group of twenty-five or more.

Inquiries have been received, regarding tickets for the Hotel St. George Pool. These are no longer issued at group rates, as the price of the regular tickets has been reduced.

If any member of the staff desires to rent for the summer, an attractive apartment of two rooms and kitchenette, furnished or unfurnished, located on Brooklyn Heights and with a view of Manhattan, will they communicate with

Leonilda Sansone
Aguilar Branch Library
New York Public Library
or 10 Remsen St., Brooklyn.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, 1936

Henrietta G. Tuttle	Ci
Ella M. Vincent	D
Signe L. Steen	M
Ruth M. Gottwald	K
Ethel G. Bailey	F

Committee chose own chairman - Mrs. Bailey

EXHIBITS

The Bedford Branch is exhibiting a set of twelve prints of Russian Icons, made available through the courtesy of the Art Department of the College of the City of New York. These examples of Iconography, portrait images in Christian art of the 15th and 16th centuries, find their roots in the art of the Byzantine period, but the later arts of the Orthodox countries have kept Byzantine Iconography alive to the present day.

Crown Heights has an exhibit of insects that is causing great interest among the students just now. Indeed, business men stop to study the cases and even the rubbish men paused several minutes in their work to examine the specimens. The exhibit shows various stages of the life history of moths, butterflies, wasps, bees, cicadas and horned corydalus.

Brownsville Children's Branch was pleased to have a visit from a teacher who came to see their pirate poster exhibit. She had been sent there from the Bay Ridge Branch. Her school is presenting "The Pirates of Penzance" this spring and they wanted ideas for back-drops. She was helped with rough designs of posters, and lists of books in which she might find suggestive material. At the same time Bj had a special exhibit of etchings, two of which are originals by Whistler and Corot.

An exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publishing of the "Pickwick Papers" is now being held at Prospect. Various editions of "Pickwick Papers" are on display, together with numerous illustrations lent by a reader.

AN OFFER

Eastern Parkway has a superfluity of copies of about 80 fiction titles and will be glad to lend some of them to other branches to eke out the diminished fiction collections. Lists will be sent to any branch on request.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW DICKENS?

Kensington Branch, through the courtesy of the artist, Mr. John Henzel has a unique and almost infinitesimal display of some of his models of the best beloved of Dickens' characters. They are faithful in line as well as in spirit to the author's descriptions; and are well worth an out-of-the-way visit. Among them you will find:

A. A man "whose red hair was cropped as close as the closed stubble. Who had hardly any eyebrows and no eyelids, and eyes of red-brown so unsheltered and unshaded that I remember wondering how he went to sleep."

B. "A tall hard-featured lady, but by no

means ill-looking. There was an inflexibility about her face, but her features were rather handsome than otherwise. She had a very quick, bright eye; and her hair which was grey, was arranged in two divisions under a mob-cap."

C. "A very old shrivelled man, whose villianous looking and repulsive face was obscured by a quantity of matted red hair. He was dressed in a greasy flannel gown, with his neck bare, and seemed to be dividing his attention between a frying-pan and a clothes-horse over which a quantity of silk handkerchiefs were hanging."

D. "A huge, strong fellow of six feet high broad in proportion and round-shouldered, but with a simpering boy's face and curly light hair that gave him quite a sheepish look. He was dressed in a canvas jacket and a pair of such very stiff trousers that they could have stood quite as well alone without any legs in them. And you couldn't so properly have said he wore a hat as that he was covered in a-top, like an old building with something pitchy."

E. "A stoutish, middle-aged person in a brown surtout and black tights and shoes with no more hair on his head (which was a large one and very shining) than there is on an egg, and with a very extensive face. His clothes were shabby but he had an imposing shirt-collar on. He carried a jaunty sort of stick with a large pair of rusty tassels to it; and a quizzing-glass hung outside of his coat---an ornament, I afterwards found, as he very seldom looked through it and couldn't see anything if he did."

F. "He stood in the midst of the party his contenance lighted up with smiles which the heart of no man, woman or child could resist: himself the happiest of the group; shaking hands over and over again with the same people, and, when his own were not so employed, rubbing them with pleasure."

G. "A man about three and twenty years old, and though rather spare, of a fair heights and strong make. His hair, of which he had a great profusion, was red, and hanging in disorder about his face and shoulders, gave to his restless looks an expression quite unearthly--enhanced by the palness of his complexion and the glassy lustre of his large, protruding eyes, Startling as his aspect was, the features were good, and there was even something plaintive in his wan and haggard expression. But the absence of the soul is far more terrible in a living man than in a dead one; and in this unfortunate being its noblest powers were wanting."

H. Some one who had "been slighted and taught nothing and thrown upon himself" and who decided to run away to seek a happier fortune.

Answers to Dickens characters

A. Uriah Heep
B. Betsy Trotwood
C. Fagin the Jew
D. Mr. Pegotty
E. Mr. Micawber
F. Mr. Pickwick
G. Barnaby Rudge
H. David Copperfield

PERSONALS

Professor Roscoe C. E. Brown of the Columbia School of Journalism, will retire from active service on June 30th. Professor Brown, formerly managing editor of the New York Tribune, has been a member of the faculty since 1914. He is a trustee of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Miss Olive Ober of Simmons College is spending a week at the Bedford Branch learning something of our methods, our problems and our neighborhood. A program of visits including other branches, schools and museums has also been planned for Miss Ober and her week is filled to the brim! It is always a pleasure to have a visitor from out of town with us and to have an opportunity for an exchange of ideas.

A contribution from the pen of Miss Lucille Vander Voort appeared in the Brooklyn "Eagle" on April 3rd.

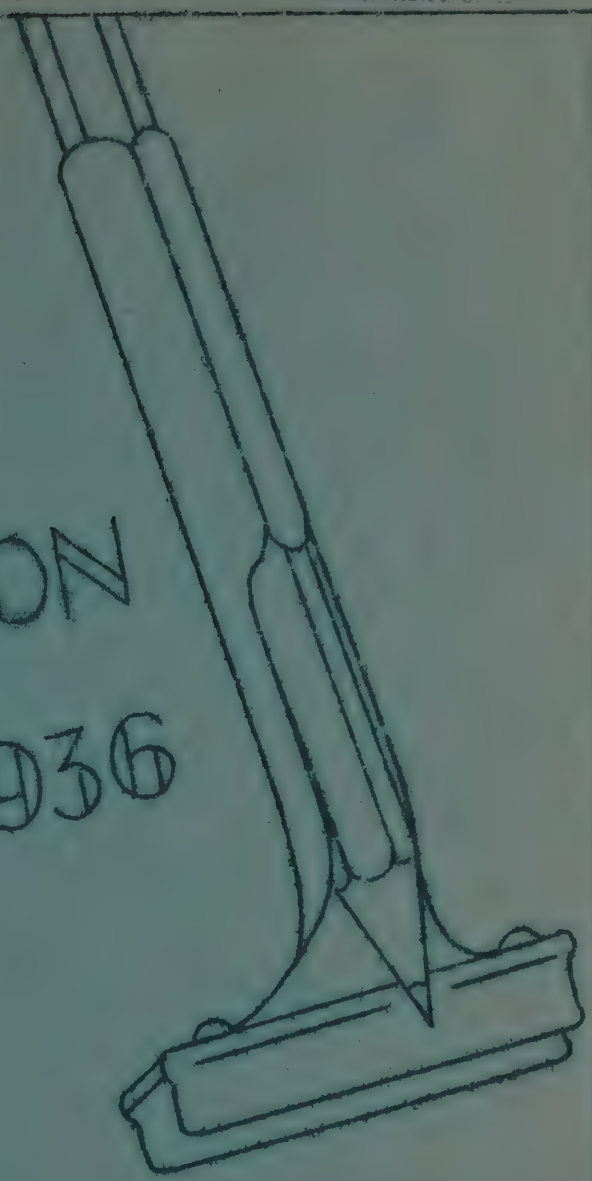
On Wednesday evening, March 18th, Miss Tuthill (Bo) addressed three adult reading classes at P.S. 156. Her subject was the "Facilities of the Library."

B8734B1

THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILL

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

1935 — 1936



AMONG OURSELVES

A M O N G O U R S E L V E S

A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edited by the Publicity Committee of the B. P. L. Staff Association in co-operation with the Branch Staff Representatives

Adelaide A. Kennedy, Chairman (F)
Marjorie S. Ladd (Ep)
Alice F. Hale (K)
Elizabeth Schneidewind (Kg)
Marilla V. Williams (W)
Jean L. Ross (Bo)

VOLUME III MAY, 1936 NUMBER VIII

The fact that this is the last issue of Among Ourselves before vacation is evidence sufficient that spring is here. The calendar has been telling me so; and a perky robin on the rim of a bird bath just filled confirmed the feeling. It has been a long winter. Under its chilling breath we have all wondered, I am sure, whether the ice age had come back again. The indications now are that such fear was unfounded. Again the trees, flowers and birds will lure us away into the open spaces, Tennis, pool and surf, mountain trail, golf and saddle - how many devices offer their charm! So, I hope you will answer the summons. Let the sun have his way. Between times maybe you will find solace in shady nook with the right book. Quite unofficially I announce spring is here.

M.J.F.

The Publicity Committee wishes to thank Mr. Rho Slawson for his enthusiastic interest and untiring cooperation in the preparation of "Among Ourselves". Mr. Slawson has taken charge of the mimeographing and distribution of each issue, and his advice and aid have been invaluable.

COVER CONTEST

The Publicity Committee is pleased to announce that Miss Helen Vogel, Eastern Parkway, is the winner of this year's cover contest. A number of original and distinctive designs were received - evidence of the talent liberally scattered thruout the system.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18-21 - American Association for Adult Education - Annual meeting Hotel Astor

June 16-19 - Special Libraries Association Annual Conference - Montreal

Sept.21-26 - New York Library Association Annual Conference - Lake Mohonk, N. Y.

STAFF OFFICERS

Announcement of the election of the following officers for 1936-37 was made at the meeting of the Brooklyn Public Library Staff Association: April 30th.

President	Mrs. Helen B. Hamlet (Bo)
Vice President	Marjorie L Cowles (D)
Secretary	Ruth McEvoy (Bj)
Treasurer	Evelyn E. Kirkland (M)
Executive Board	Lillian M. Foley (G)
	Helen O'Connell (Pa)
Member of the Council of the United Staff Association	Mary L. Tuttle (Md)

COOPERATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Junior Members' Section of the New York Library Association has as a project the compilation of a Bibliography of all material in the libraries of the State of New York, on the Five Nations of New York State; The Iroquois Indians, a confederacy of five tribes - Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca.

This Bibliography came to the Cataloguing Department in the early Fall of 1935 and many hours were spent upon it for about three months. The Bibliography consisted principally of Library of Congress printed cards, and some typewritten cards. It had already visited several libraries and had grown in transit, containing 631 entries when it reached us.

If a library contained a particular book

or article, the name of the library was added to the top of the card - upper right hand corner. We compared every entry with the Union catalogue or shelf-list. There were many articles in state and society proceedings and transactions to be carefully identified. These took much time. There were also many books in the Bibliography. Often we had a copy of the very book cited. If we had a different edition a typewritten card was added to the collection.

After making comparison with the Union catalogue and shelf-list and adding 77 new entries, Brooklyn Public Library appeared on 310 cards in the Bibliography.

While comparing this Bibliography with our Union records, we typed for the Book Order Office, 147 order-slips for titles new to the system, or in different editions, and for replacements of lost or discarded books.

Grace E. Tobey
Supt. of Cataloguing

HARDY'S LAST NOVEL

A short while ago there appeared in print the first American edition of a novel entitled "An Indiscretion in the life of an Heiress," edited by Professor Carl J. Weber of Colby College and recognized by Hardy enthusiasts as the "lost novel" of this famous author. Just what part the B. P. L. and its interlibrary loan system played in its publication I will relate to you.

It has long been known that Thomas Hardy wrote an early novel (1868), but, apparently humiliated by his first unsuccessful attempts at publication, he destroyed the manuscript. Hardy lovers believed the story lost forever. Nevertheless there remained in existence a detailed description of the plot and characters. Recently Professor Weber, one of the foremost Hardy authorities and collectors in this country, discovered that this author had published a story in the "New Quarterly", an obscure English periodical, in 1878. There were known to be only three copies in the United States - one in the Library of Congress, the second privately owned, and the third in the Brooklyn Public Library.

Through the aid of Colby College Library Professor Weber obtained the loan of the copy in the Brooklyn Public Library. A comparison of this story with the known facts concerning the lost novel, "The Poor Man and a Lady", proved it to be the same. It was slightly altered in form; some of the characters had been transposed to other novels, proper names had been changed, but the essential plot remained the same. From our periodical Professor Weber had the story published in book form for the first time.

In the introduction he graciously expresses his appreciation to the "librarians of the Brooklyn Public Library" for their services in making available to him one of the few existing copies of a rare English periodical containing Hardy's lost novel.

Edith Woodward

TITLES

The following quotation from Macbeth seems to me particularly rich as a source of book titles. Who has read all of the titles listed, and who can suggest another equally rich?

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, Out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more; it is a tale
Told by an idiot - full of sound and fury,
Signigying nothing.
(Act 5, Sc. 5)

Titles contained therein:

MacKenna	Tomorrow and tomorrow
Tomlinson	All our yesterdays
Robins	Dusty death
Huxley	Brief candles
Macauley	Told by an idiot
Henle	Sound and fury

Alice McQuade Huchthausen

N. Y. CITY PROPOSED NEW CHARTER

Many of the staff from Brooklyn availed themselves of the opportunity to hear Judge Thacher and Mrs. Earle speak on the new proposed Charter on Wednesday, May 6th at the New York Public Library.

Miss Rankin, President of the N.Y.P.L. Staff Association gave a short summary of former charters from the original Dongan Charter of 1686 which is now on exhibition at City Hall, to the Greater New York charter of 1897 with its amendments.

Judge Thacher who is chairman of the Charter Revision Committee was introduced by Mr. Lydenberg and gave a very instructive outline of some of the more important provisions of the new charter and the reason for them. He pointed out that this is the first time that the people of the City of N. Y. would have an opportunity to vote on charter adoption, and the necessity that the electorate be well-informed concerning its provisions.

Mrs. Earle emphasized the necessity for wide public education so that the people may become "charter conscious" and suggested that the libraries of Greater New York could assist in this work as a feature of the Adult Education program for this year. We can not say DO or DO NOT vote for the charter but if it should not be accepted it should be for definite reasons and not by default.

It is earnestly hoped that some satisfactory plan for library participation in this form of Adult Education can be worked out by the three library systems of New York City.

BOOKS I HAVE ENJOYED

James	Portrait of a lady
Frost	New Hampshire
Robinson	Tristram
Leland	Salah and his American
O'Faolain	Nest O' Simple Folk
Hardy	Return of the native
McFee	Sunlight in New Granada

Laura Taylor (Br)

THE STAFF OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

mourns the loss of their friend, Doctor

HOWARD LEE MC BAIN

May 7, 1936

SECOND-THIRD GRADE MEETING

Uniformity was the topic at the 2nd-3rd grade meeting on April 23rd. The discussion and wide-awake alertness of the group to the larger problems of library service, turned what might have been a very dull meeting into a most stimulating one.

Reference talks emphasized the great gap existing between realities and ideals. The splendid resourcefulness of the reference assistants in accumulating material and the pitiful lack of personnel to handle reference work adequately, clearly showed the need for organization of the work under a general supervisor who would promote cooperation with the schools and direct more specialized attention for the individual borrower.

It was quite generally agreed that uniformity in practice affecting the public is desirable when possible but branch routine is dependent on differing conditions and uniformity is unnecessary and tedious.

Many helpful hints and suggestions for improving contacts with the public and caring for the book collection were presented; especially noteworthy was the interesting presentation of such a dull subject as messenger work.

The discussion on the desirability of uniformity in matters pertaining to registration, staff, high school privileges, reserves, etc. was curtailed for lack of time after it had been launched successfully and the whole group stimulated to active participation.

SPRING SONG NO. 9,987

The days grow longer,
The skies grow sunnier,
And ladies hats
Grow funnier and funnier.

Sun Dial

"A GOOD WORKMAN MUST KNOW HIS TOOLS"

We quote from the paragraph devoted to matters pertaining to the staff contained in the annual report of the Chief Librarian.

It is a deplorable fact that for many years an overworked staff has had to be content with a far from satisfactory catch-as-can acquaintance with books. For much of the time when we have not been actually engaged in delivering to and receiving books from the public, we have been so pressed for time that much of the routine work properly belonging to a workroom or office has of necessity been conducted in the presence of those who come to the library. We all know that this is wrong! Can we not re-orient ourselves and adjust our schedules to devote to the field of books the little extra time available from the general decrease in circulation? Can we not relegate to the workroom the mechanical part of our profession? And lastly can we not adopt the suggestion of the chief librarian that "staff members below the grade of Branch Librarian" be given time to examine the new books?

BOOKS

"Whatever our sphere in life may be we shall discharge our duties more wisely and more efficiently if we know books. The vision of wider horizons, the contact with greater minds, will bring us stronger and calmer to every duty. People will not say of us that we have ceased to grow. In the interchange of daily life we shall be more interesting and more welcome if we know books."
(From "The Art of Reading" by Henry Guppy)

A BOUQUET FOR DEKALB

Dear Sir:

I am returning my Library card. I moved to a different borough. I thank you very much for letting me take books at home to read. It helps a lot in education.

Your friend,

(Letter received by DeKalb)

OUR HOBBY SHOW

Let the social committee and its coworkers build a better mouse trap and the whole Staff Association will beat a track to Bedford. When in connection with the annual business meeting on Thursday, a hobby show was featured, a record number of staff members, despite the late hour made their appearance and showed a profound interest in the exhibition.

The wide variety of hobbies was the cause of much favorable comment and in some cases, great amusement. The animal world was present with the procession of miniature elephants from Williamsburgh; the assorted menagerie from Macon; and Tammy and Kiltie, two real Scotties who kept Dorothy Niebrugge busy most of the evening.

Incunabula was represented by Dr. Ferguson display of rare books, including a copy of Moore's Utopia, printed in London in 1639; and Mrs. Sommerhoff's exhibit of original manuscripts of the composer, Robert Schumann.

Scenic photographs of all parts of the United States and Europe reminded us that vacation time is near, and the roving fever began to creep upon us. Miss Van der Voort's life-size photos of different species of flowers and plants were worthy of any prize that a camera company might offer. Miss McMahon's colored photographs were a feature few of us had ever before seen.

Miss Roghé showed her collection of modern art books; and Miss Edwards and Miss O'Gara each displayed original sketches and water colors.

Stamp albums, collections of pennies, shells, necklaces, recipe books and Indian trinkets all had their place.

The theatre was represented by Miss Rebenklau's collection of photographs of current stage scenes and players, and by Miss Schneidewind's unique collection of theatre programs dating back to 1917.

Old fashioned dolls, dolls from all countries and the renowned marionettes from Bedford were all present and viewed the spectators with glassy stares.

Coffee and sandwiches concluded the evening, and as people reluctantly left, were heard to murmur, "Wasn't it a nice party. I had the best time----and didn't you just love that collection of-------".

EXHIBIT

The Williamsburgh Branch is having an exhibition of books and their making from early times to the present. The Brooklyn Museum has loaned several interesting exhibits including samples of illuminating. Many of the publishers have co-operated and sent numerous specimens of present-day book-making. Another feature is a miniature printing press and embosser which is electrically operated. The exhibition runs until the first of June. Williamsburgh hopes that staff-members from other branches will take this opportunity to make a visit.

A CORRECTION

To the Editors of Among Ourselves:

Re: Article on p. 5 of February issue entitled "Traveling Speaks".

Library Extension is writing to remind the editors that "Traveling" spoke for the last time in 1920 and that for the past fifteen years "Library Extension" has been doing the talking. It has evidently been speaking too softly or too inarticulately!

A. L. A. NOTES

Mrs. Ella M. Perry has been chosen from the staff to represent the Brooklyn Public Library at Richmond. She will attend, among other activities, the dinner and discussions on Staff Associations and their activities.

Others on the staff who will join these discussions are Miss Ada J. Cobb who will tell her experiences with our Library Credit Union; Miss Corinne Sheppard and Miss Jean L. Ross who will contribute to the discussion on staff papers.

PERSONALS

On May Day a twin farewell party was held at Leonard in honor of Miss Dunn and Mr. Contegni. The decorations were appropriately red and the refreshments - Strawberry Shortcake! Miss Dunn will be in Europe for 6 months. Mr. Contegni, who recently completed his second year at L, will be in Mr. Martin's department.

Others sailing this month include Miss Roghé (B) to Denmark, Miss Marilla Williams (W), to England, and Miss Voorhees (S), to Norway and the North Cape.

The Department of Library Extension welcomed Miss Margaret Winning, a new staff member, on May 1st. Until recently Miss Winning has been librarian at the Berkeley Institute.

Miss Rose Rosenthal was appointed to the staff of Mapleton Branch on May 1st.

Miss Mildred Schnakenberg, spent a recent week-end in the Catskill Mountains. During the course of her stay, she and a relative went for a hike. The trail led them through the woods, they became so interested in their "nature study" that they found in a short time that they were lost. The first thought that came to their minds, when they realized they were lost was the story of "Hansel and Gretel", from which they recited extracts. Eventually, they found a road that led them home. "The hike took four hours."

Comment by the Bursar: "Employees in the Finance Department, can always find their way home."

Miss Martha Roethgen is spending her Spring Vacation at Valeria.

Bushwick Branch was represented at the Library Institute, held in Queens, April 25, by Miss Helen Brown, Miss Mary S. Granger and Miss Mollie H. Siegfried.

Miss Beard and Miss Freeman have been asked to assist the National Council of Teachers of English in the revision of its two reading lists "Home Reading" and "Leisure Reading."

The May meeting of the Publicity Committee was held at Miss Hale's lovely apartment. After a sumptious meal, and all that goes with it, the committee settled down to it's business meeting.

Married: Mary Dickson of Washington, D. C. formerly of the Brooklyn Public Library, was married in March to Richard C. Hall. Her present address is Bath, N. Y.

SKY ROCKETS
Inspired by Library Assistants

Up, up they go, with a soft s-sh of light,
Aimed for the stars in unrestrained delight,
Tight tied contraptions on stiff wooden sticks
Turn into evanscent candle-wicks.
Swirling they go upon their skyward way,
Singing the things they've always longed to say;
Their scattered sparks, upon the summer breeze,
Make all the woodland full Christmas trees.
Tomorrow, all of them that can be found
Will be some sticks, half-buried in the ground,
With primitive psychology to preach
To those who aim for things beyond their reach.
But better for to burn a shining self
Than stay secure upon a storage shelf.

LAMENT OF A GRADE 1-er

I wish that I could some day be
So very bright and make grade three.

A grade at which one looks with awe
For to be here, means not a flaw.

A grade that always knows what's best
And how to answer every "quest."

Upon whose neck great problems fall
When Branch Librarians to meetings crawl.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only stars can make grade three.

(Apologies to Joyce Kilmer)
Mary S. Granger (Bu)

VICTROLA WANTED

Will anyone who has an old victrola either lend or give it to the Bedford Marionettes? We would greatly appreciate some music with our performances (and we are sure our audiences would too.)

Adeline Johnson
Staff Representative-Bedford

BONERS

Polite girl - May I have a book about the housing pigeon? (Ma)

Children's librarian - (Discussing biography books with a visiting class) "We have a book called 'First Ladies.' Does anyone know what that means?" No response.
C. L. - "Does anyone know who the First Lady of the Land is?"
Enthusiastic pupil - "Eve." (Ma)

We understand that helped by the new registration rules one enterprising staff is compiling a reference file of eligible bachelors and widowers.

Borrower: - "Who is the author of 'I write as I please'?"
Librarian: -"Duranty."
Borrower: - "Jimmie?"

HAVE YOU A LITTLE FAIRY IN YOUR HOME?

A cynical "cit" from Albercuercue
Assiduously watched the daily circ
Hoping thereby to find the "crooks"
Who appropriate the seven day books.

A member of the staff at Tompkins Park recently had the following dream:

"A request having been sent through "Interchange" for a title of which the branch was supposed to have a live copy, the following facetious reproof was administered by way of report":
"Look homeward angel".

On April 22nd a young lady joined the library. The assistant taking the application started to write 22 for the date. The applicant leaned forward beaming and whispered "You flatter me. I'm 30".

Leonard's pamphlet collection is now garbed in sturdy covers, the work of an expert PWA clerk. The pamphlet collection and the small Art Reference collection, which we are starting, will soon be housed in glass cases where the public will be able to see the collections all together.

Leonard Branch announces the arrival of White Socks (pet, not official name) a black he-kitten with four white feet. He was born in New Jersey of reputable parents, which origin we hope, will bring him a happier destiny than his predecessors enjoyed at L.

Leonard Branch is holding an exhibit of the work of the Handicraft Classes of P.S. No. 23, in the Children's Room. On May 12th thirty-five teachers and their principal Mr. Seehof, visited the exhibit and later enjoyed a glass of punch with the Leonard Staff.

Natalie F. Kent of East Branch is resigning on June 17th to be married. Barbara Smith of Brownsville Children's Branch is resigning on June 14th. Miss Smith is leaving to become a member of the staff of The Free Public Library, Montpelier, Vt.

RENCONTRE
A. V. Stuart

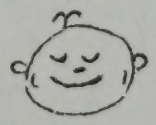
She walked to the music of her own mind's
making,
The tall, spare spinster in the cheap,
drab coat,
And her pale lips, faintly moving, their
divine thirst were slaking
At the gods' own Hippocrene, where bright
bright bubbles float.

As I passed her, in the half-light, on
waft of wind I caught the
Words once shaped by mortals beyond all
mortal ken.
With Shelley and Shakespeare she
walked, with god-like Milton,
This poorest, palest, shabbiest of the
daughters of men.

I looked at the girls, with their silken
curls tossing,
Their redder lips than nature, their
bright eyes of desire.
O brief is your springtime (I thought)
my blossomy darlings,
But hers the authentic, the undying fire.

And I kissed the nearest blossom (was
she Daphne? was she Chloe?)
And betwixt my fingers her soft curls
stirred
My thoughts were far from her, my
thoughts were on the highway
Where walked the lone, gaunt spinster
with the immortal word.

Moult - Best Poems of 1935



On April 22nd a very busy day lies the Library. The usual taking the exhibition planned to write 22 for the date. The exhibition issued Governed beating and winnered "Ten Pictures" in 59".

Leonard's pen-and-ink collection is now grouped in nearly covers, the work of an expert TM clerk. The pamphlet collection and the small art Reference collection, which are otherwise, will soon be housed in glass cases where the public will be able to see the collections all together.

Leonard Brown announces the arrival of Christmas (yet, not officially here) a blind Bo-kitten with four white feet. He was born in a box belonging to a reputable person, which origin we know, will being him a happier destiny than his predecessors enjoyed at 1.

Leonard Brown is lofty, an exhibit of the work of the Institute of Theatre of L.S.C. TM, in the Gallery Room, on May 15th thru Five teachers and their pupils. Book & visited the exhibit and later enjoyed a glass of punch with the Leonard Staff.

Danelle M. Kent of East Bremen is returning on June 17th to be married. Barbara Smith of Sunnyville Publicity Bureau is publishing on June 14th. Her smith is leaving to become a member of the staff of the Free Public Library, Westville, Vt.

MEMORIAL

A. V. Stuart

She walked to the music of her own mind's making,
The tall, spare minister in the black, drab coat.
And her pale lips, faintly smiling, their utter silent
At the rabbi' own discovered, were bright, bright Judge.

As I passed her, in the half-light, on
Left of what I caught the
Are ones shaped by mortals beyond all
mortal ken.
With Shelley and Wordsworth she
walked, with Job-like tides,
This poetess, palest, saddest of the
daughters of men.

I looked at the girls, with their silken
souls tossing,
Their modder lips than nature, their
bright eyes of desire.
O belief in your mystics (I thought)
no observers delusion,
But here the antichrist, the wavering fire.

And I kissed the peasant blossom (was
the Jacobsen was the Christ?)
And softly by fingers her soft souls
stirred
By them who were far from h., by
thoughts were on the mighty
Were walked the lone, quiet minister
with the hunted word.

Kent - Best poems of 1939